

Britain: Moscow accepts arms embargo

KUWAIT (R) — A British minister said on Sunday that Moscow had agreed to back an arms embargo against Iran but he rejected a U.N. naval force in the Gulf as a condition for Soviet support. "We are glad that the Soviet Union has agreed to join in the process of working on an arms embargo and we hope very much to make progress on that," David Mellor, minister of state for foreign affairs, told reporters. Mr. Mellor, who arrived in Kuwait from Saudi Arabia on a Gulf tour, said Moscow had revised its view that more time was needed to persuade Iran to accept a ceasefire in its war with Iraq. But he said the Soviet Union should not insist on a U.N. naval force in the Gulf as the price for backing an embargo. "This would rightly bring them condemnation of the Arab Nation which will not want to see their need for a follow-up resolution used as a bargaining counter," Mr. Mellor said. The U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 598 last July demanding a ceasefire in the seven-year war. Iraq accepted but Iran says Baghdad must first be named as "the aggressor."

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Bonn parliamentarian leaves Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Hans Schterken, a member of Bonn's parliament, left Beirut on Sunday after holding talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel and Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, an official source said. Mr. Schterken, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the West German parliament, discussed with Mr. Gemayel and Mr. Hussein "bilateral relations and the latest developments in Lebanon," the source said. He refused to disclose details of the separate meetings. Mr. Schterken, who arrived in Beirut from Damascus on Saturday, said before leaving "there was a chance for a Lebanese-Syrian dialogue." He did not elaborate. Syria had boycotted Mr. Gemayel after he refused to endorse a Syrian-brokered peace pact between the warring factions in December 1986. Mr. Schterken declined to say whether he had negotiated for the release of West German businessman Rudolf Cordes, 55, kidnapped on Jan. 17 in west Beirut. Mr. Cordes is believed held by relatives of two Lebanese brothers, Mohammad Ali Hamadei and Abbas Ali Hamadei, both detained in Frankfurt.

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Crown Prince receives Fujera leader

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan met at his office in the Royal Court Sunday with Sheikh Saleh al Shuraji, deputy governor and commander of the defence forces and director of civil aviation of the emirate of Fujera in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Sheikh Shuraji conveyed greetings from the Fujera ruler, Sheikh Hamad Ibn Mohammad al Shuraji, to His Majesty King Hussein and to Prince Hassan and was requested to convey a reply message of greetings. The meeting was attended by Sharif Rakan, director general of Arab Wings, and UAE ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Al Horafa.

Mahdi heads for China

HARTOUM (R) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi left for China on Sunday for a four-day official visit, state Radio Hartoum reported. He told a news conference last week his talks in China would mainly deal with bilateral relations and ways to boost Sudan's armed forces, ended in a four-year-old war against rebels in the south of the country. Mr. Mahdi, who returned on Saturday from visits to Jordan and Libya, was accompanied by Foreign Minister Maanoun Sanad and Trade Minister Ibrahim Abdul Jalil.

Egypt waives visa rules for nationals of 9 Arab states

CAIRO (AP) — Nationals from nine Arab states which recently stored diplomatic relations with Egypt will no longer need visas to visit Cairo, a government official said Sunday. General Ahmad al-Husseini, director of the passport and immigration government office, was quoted by the Middle East News Agency (MENA) as saying that nationals from those countries would also be given a free six-month residence permit, after which they must exchange \$180 officially every month as is required of all foreigners visiting the country.

Syria and Oman have diplomatic ties

AMMAN (R) — Syria and Oman have agreed to establish diplomatic relations and exchange ambassadors, the Syrian news agency (SANA) said on Sunday. It said the decision followed talks between visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Youssef al Alawi and Syrian President Hafez al Assad and Foreign Minister Farouq al Sharaa on Saturday. The two countries have not had diplomatic relations since they became independent. Britain recognised the full independence of Oman in 1951 while Syria achieved full independence in 1946.

World anger grows over Israeli actions

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian government on Sunday summoned the Israeli ambassador, Moshe Sasson, and delivered a sharply worded protest about the Jewish state's "oppressive and brutal actions" in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It was the fifth Egyptian statement since the ongoing Palestinian protests began in the Israeli-occupied territories Dec. 8.

Meanwhile, the Arab Lawyers

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Israelis shoot and wound more Arabs in continuing protests in occupied lands

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Israeli troops shot and wounded seven more Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday amid mounting anger in the Arab World at Israel's handling of the continuing anti-occupation protests.

The Israeli army said it had fired on stone-throwing demonstrators in Fara refugee camp on the West Bank, wounding four Arabs. A fifth Palestinian was shot and wounded at Kabatiya in the West Bank and two more suffered injuries in the Gaza area. As the army reported the latest clashes its figures were being questioned by an Israeli newspaper which accused it of covering up the number of Palestinians killed by secretly burying bodies at night (See page 2).

The Israeli cabinet met to hear a report on the violence, which has now spread to Arab Jerusalem and Bethlehem, the birthplace of Jesus, a tourist attraction at Christmas.

Liberal politicians including cabinet minister Ezer Weizman

challenged the Israeli army's need to enter Palestinian refugee camps or to shoot demonstrators. "There are demonstrations elsewhere in the world... but there are no dead," he said, urging more use of non-lethal weapons such as rubber bullets and tear-gas.

The 24-member cabinet rejected a motion by Mr. Weizman to express regret over the casualties and send an emissary to Egypt, which has been highly critical about the army's use of force.

Italy's President Francesco Cossiga voiced concern about the situation in a meeting Sunday with Israeli President Chaim Herzog. "As a friend, I feel an obligation to voice concern about

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Palestinian protesters stone Israeli soldiers in Arab Jerusalem on Saturday and (right) Israeli troops stand in front of a bank that was wrecked in the Arab anti-occupation protests

Thousands vow revenge on Israel

SIDON, Lebanon (Agencies) — About 75,000 chanting protesters in the South Lebanon city of Sidon vowed on Sunday to take revenge on Israel for killing Palestinian demonstrators in the occupied territories.

"Palestinians, mount your struggle and revolution against the occupiers," shouted the flag-waving Lebanese and Palestinian marchers. "With our blood and soul we sacrifice you, Palestine."

Blessed are those confronting the enemy with stones," the crowd screamed, surging through Sidon as children shook their clenched fists. "We will not stop the struggle as long as we breathe."

The march, which started at 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp near Sidon, was the largest in three days of anti-Israeli protests by Palestinians and Lebanese across Lebanon and its dozen refugee camps.

Palestinian leaders and Sidon's Lebanese politicians led the march, which ended at a mass grave for hundreds of people killed in Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Palestinian sources told Reuters scores of Palestinians had donated blood for residents of the occupied territories through the International Committee of the Red Cross in Beirut.

Shops, restaurants and other businesses were closed as demonstrators, waving Palestinian flags, toured the streets of Sidon.

"We shall escalate armed struggle until we liberate Jerusalem and all other occupied Arab lands," they shouted.

In Kuwait, the daily newspaper Al Watan criticised the lack of any action by the United States to halt the violence. "We don't understand the failure of Israel's protectors to do anything, even say a word condemning the abduction, siege and torture of an entire unarmed people in the occupied territories by Israel," Al Watan newspaper said.

Iraqis thwart big Iranian attack on central front

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq said on Sunday it had thrown back a big Iranian offensive on the south-central war front, but diplomats said Baghdad expected more attacks in the next few weeks.

A high command communique said the thrust, spearheaded by two brigades, was launched at 10.45 p.m. (1945 GMT) on Saturday and was repulsed after about 12 hours of fighting.

It said the Iraqis, whose normal brigade strength is about 4,000 men, attacked in the Zubaidat marshland area about 200 kilometres northeast of Basra. The Iraqis stalled a major assault on their country's second city early this year.

The Iraqis, who were supported by tanks, suffered heavy losses and very few were able to escape, the communique said.

A Baghdad-based diplomat described the overnight raid as a test of Iraqi defences. Baghdad Television screened on Sunday night film of scores of Iranian corpses on the battlefield.

The bodies of several soldiers were shown lying in trenches or surrounded by barbed wire outside. One injured Iranian was pictured on a stretcher.

The commander of the Fourth Iraqi Army Corps, in a cable to President Saddam Hussein, said: "Hundreds of Iranian corpses are still littering the battlefield area."

Iran's Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) confirmed the fighting, but denied that Iranian army forces were involved.

It said "Iranian Muslim combatants," a reference to Revolutionary Guards, killed hundreds of Iraqi troops in a "blitz," a word Iran uses to describe hit-and-run raids.

The Iraqi armed forces newspaper Al Qadisiya, quoted by INA, said Iraq's soldiers were "determined to turn the criminal enemy's adventure into a final harvest of the rotten heads."

Reports by both sides of the relatively small number of combatants involved indicated this was not the long-heralded major offensive that Iran reportedly has been planning for months.

The Iraqis have massed about 370,000 troops.

Later on Sunday, Prince Abdullah met with President Hafez al Assad and Vice-President Khaddam to discuss the state of relations between Arab countries, and the Gulf war, among other topics, Damascus Radio said.

After his talks with the prince, Mr. Khaddam apparently alluded to that reconciliation effort when he told reporters that he hoped to achieve "what we all wish for."

"We should all work toward a better atmosphere in the Arab World, which will enable us to confront all the dangers that threaten the Arab World and especially those created by Israel," he said in remarks carried by the radio.

Mr. Khaddam said although there was conflict between Iran and the Arab countries, that conflict could and should be solved. One of Syria's arguments for its ties with Tehran is that it could act as a channel for peace contacts between Iran and the Arab World.

In a development related to Syrian-Iraqi differences, a case brought by Iraq against Syria for its 1982 closure of an Iraqi oil pipeline has been adjourned until next April by a judicial tribunal of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Countries (OAPC).

The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Iraqi and Syrian lawyers presented their positions at a hearing on Saturday.

Syria shut the pipeline, which links Iraq's Kirkuk oilfields with the Mediterranean port of Banias, in 1981.

The president of Syria's supreme constitutional court, Nasrat Haidar, told the tribunal the matter was a political one outside its jurisdiction.

Mr. Haidar said he hoped the case would be dropped soon, adding "the prevailing political winds between the two countries suggest this."

Lower House's unanimous approval of budget hailed as accomplishment for both Cabinet and Parliament

By a Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The passage on Saturday by the Lower House of Parliament of the 1988 fiscal budget was hailed only after a long and sometimes heated debate, but it was the first time in almost 25 years that a government draft budget received a unanimous vote of approval by deputies.

The Lower House's approval by acclamation of the draft budget was viewed by deputies and analysts as an expression of the growing cooperation and closer coordination between the executive and legislative branches of the government.

According to deputies interviewed by the Jordan Times on Saturday and Sunday, cooperation between the Cabinet and the Lower House started from the moment the draft budget was presented to Parliament by Finance Minister Hannah Odeh two weeks ago. The prime minister and Cabinet members were



Full text of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's speech to the Lower House of Parliament on Saturday appears on page 5

very responsive to deputies' arguments and suggestions from the very beginning," noted Deputy Wahid Al Jaabari (Hebron), who is a member of the House's Financial Committee. "The com-

mittee members were able to discuss all queries with the concerned ministers and head of departments," he said.

In his reply to the committee's recommendations and observations on Saturday, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai described the committee's report as "detailed and full of analysis." According to Mr. Jaabari, the committee this year had held very lengthy sessions and its discussions were "very serious."

Deputy Farah Abu Jaber (Amman) said that upon the committee's request, a number of ministers and government officials attended the panel's meetings, and thus all points were discussed with the concerned officials.

In Mr. Jaabari's view, most points were clarified between the officials and the deputies during these meetings. He said that the ministers and officials who had attended some of the committee's meetings had listened to all the

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Upper House endorses supplement to 1987 budget

Senate refers '88 budget to Financial Committee

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) met in an ordinary session on Sunday and endorsed by a majority vote several draft laws and amendments to legislation, including a JD 61.4 million supplement to the 1987 national budget and referred to the Senate Financial Committee the 1988 draft budget.

During the session, the Senate also observed a minute of silence in memory of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers in the past 12 days of Arab protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and several senators addressed the House denouncing the Jewish state's inhuman and atrocious actions against the Arabs under its occupation.

The JD 1,075 billion draft budget for 1988 that the Senate referred to its Financial Committee

tee is expected to be discussed on the floor and endorsed by the House before the end of the year.

The Lower House of Parliament unanimously endorsed the budget on Saturday. It was the first time in four years that the Lower House unanimously endorsed the annual budget. Previous budgets were passed by the deputies with a majority vote and a number of abstentions.

In their speeches on the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip during the session, senators echoed sentiments that were expressed by several deputies on Saturday.

Senators Hazem Nuseibeh and Walid Salah praised the Palestinian resistance against the Israeli occupation and denounced the occupation authorities' inhuman and atrocious actions against the Arabs. Mr. Nuseibeh and Mr. Salah also called on all Arab states and international organisations to support the Palestinian people's steadfastness.

Dr. Nuseibeh said the Arabs were surprised by the outcome of the Dec. 7-11 Soviet-U.S. summit meeting since neither of the two superpowers gave the Arab-Israeli conflict due attention.

"We had hopes that the historic summit meeting would give some attention to tackling regional issues. However, we were distressed that the summit did not give attention to one of the world's most just causes (Palestine)," he said.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein, chairman of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman, would carry the views of the Arab Nation to the Soviet leaders when he starts his official visit to Moscow today. "Our leader will express the belief of the Arab people that the rights

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France denies it plans to withdraw fleet from Gulf

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand will visit Djibouti Tuesday and meet with officers on the aircraft carrier Clemenceau to show France's continuing commitment in the Gulf region, the government said Sunday.

The Foreign Ministry denied reports that French warships were to be withdrawn as part of an effort to improve relations with Iran.

"The president's trip is a symbol," said a Foreign Ministry spokesman. "French ships will remain in the Gulf region for the present."

The spokesman added that Defence Minister Andre Giraud, responding recently to questions in parliament about the presence of the French fleet, "said that for now there is no reason to remove the ships."

"Of course, it's very expensive keeping these ships there," the spokesman said. "What will happen in three or four months I don't know."

France maintains about 25 ships and 6,000 men in the region, about one-third of its naval force. In addition to escorting merchant vessels, the French fleet, known as Task Force 623, has been responsible for destroying mine mines.

Rumours of a withdrawal of the French fleet come on the heels of allegations that France and Iran have been negotiating a deal for the release of French hostages in Lebanon.

Two French hostages were freed Nov. 27.

On Dec. 8, France expelled 17 people all said to be members or sympathisers of the Mujaheddin-e-Khalq of Iran, considered the top Iranian opposition group.

The government denied the expulsions were linked to the hostage release, but a flurry of reports in the French press speculated that the expulsions were part of a much larger deal with Tehran.

Days after the two hostages were freed by their pro-Iranian captors, Iranian embassy employee Wahid Gordji turned himself in for questioning in connection with a series of bombings in September 1986.

Gordji, who took refuge at the Iranian embassy in July, had been at the centre of a dispute between France and Iran which led to a break in diplomatic relations July 17.

Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond said Gordji's decision to turn himself in for questioning about the Paris bombings had created "a relative climate of confidence" between France and Iran.

There was speculation in the French press that Gordji's release without charges also was part of the hostage deal. The plane that took him out of France was waiting on the airport runway during the interrogation.

Algiers hosts tripartite talks on Maghreb union

ALGIERS (R) — The foreign ministers of Algeria, Mauritania and Tunisia met in Algiers on Sunday to discuss ways of making their treaty of fraternity and concord the basis of unity among the five Maghreb states.

Diplomats said the three would discuss the possibility of widening the pact to include Libya and eventually Morocco too.

The meeting came after months of intense diplomatic activity designed to achieve an old dream of a united Arab Maghreb by ending differences and closing ranks among the region's five states.

The tripartite treaty signed by Algeria, Tunisia and Mauritania in 1983 is basically a non-aggression pact stressing economic cooperation as a first step to closer political unity.

Arab diplomats said the ministers were also discussing an invitation to Libya which could join the pact after settling differences with Algeria and Tunisia.

Algeria's APS news agency reported that Algeria's Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Brahimi had met Libya's Colonel Muam-

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Jabalia becomes centre of resistance to Israel

By Karin Laub
The Associated Press

JABALIA, Occupied Gaza Strip — The Jabalia Refugee Camp, the largest and most densely populated in the Gaza Strip, has become a centre of resistance against the Israeli occupation in the last two weeks of rioting and bloodshed.

Residents, many of whom have lived in squalor for decades, say they have nothing left to lose by throwing stones at Israeli soldiers armed with submachine guns.

"When my sons go outside to demonstrate, I'm afraid for them, but I'm not going to stop them," said Neama Khalil Abu Sisi, 55, whose son, Hatem, 17, was killed in a clash with soldiers last week.

About 30 camp youths confronted a dozen soldiers in a narrow dirt road Saturday, throwing stones from behind barricades of burning tires and defiantly raising the Palestinian flag.

The soldiers advanced slowly, firing shots in the air. The protesters retreated into narrow side alleys to regroup.

Minutes later, soldiers dragged a Palestinian teen-ager into an army base inside the camp. The boy's mother followed a few yards behind, shouting at the soldiers.

"Camp residents compose the bulk of the resistance (to the occupation), and the Jabalia camp is more militant than any other place," said Faez Abu Rahme, a prominent Palestinian lawyer.

There are two main reasons for the rising tensions in Jabalia, two miles (three kilometres) north of Gaza City and home to 55,000

refugees. It is the most densely populated of the eight refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, and it is the only one to have an army base within its boundaries.

The camp was set up in 1948, and the stone huts built at the time by the United Nations as temporary shelters have long since turned into permanent housing.

A stagnant, reeking pool surrounded by rusted car wrecks forms the camp's centre. Next to the pool is the army base from which helmeted soldiers emerge periodically to patrol the narrow dirt roads on foot or in jeeps.

During a recent visit, toddlers, their eyes covered by flies, played amid the open sewage, and goats tore pieces of garbage from an overflowing dumpster sitting in a main intersection.

A camp doctor who spoke on condition of anonymity said residents haul drinking water from three wells contaminated by sewage, and that there was an epidemic of parasitic diseases, including intestinal worms. Four doctors see 400 to 500 patients every day, he said.

Camp residents live in crowded conditions. In the home of Mohammed Yousef Abu Sisi, father of the youth who was killed last week, 13 people share four 30-square-foot rooms.

Mrs. Abu Sisi and her two daughters-in-law must wait their turn to cook for their families on a single-flame stove.

There is little employment in the Gaza Strip, and the majority of the men get up before dawn every morning to travel to Israel to dig ditches, lay bricks or prune trees. About 60,000 members of the Gaza Strip's 100,000-strong labour force work in Israel.

Abu Sisi, 55, works as a stone-cutter in the Israeli coastal city of Ashkelon, earning \$19 a day. His son, Ghazi, 31, who holds a degree in accounting from Cairo University, is a day labourer in Tel Aviv.

Asked whether after the death of his son he had considered quitting his job in Israel, Abu Sisi shrugged and said: "How are we going to eat?"

Jabalia has been the site of daily violent clashes since Dec. 8 when an Israeli truck slammed into two vans carrying workers from Gaza. Four Gazans were killed, including two people from Jabalia.

Rumours spread through the camp that the truck driver struck the vans intentionally to avenge the stabbing death of an Israeli businessman in Gaza City three days earlier.

In response, hundreds of Jabalia residents staged a protest near the camp's pool, throwing stones at soldiers who responded with gunfire and killed two residents.

The clashes at Jabalia sparked 12 straight days of violent protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. At least 20 people have been killed and more than 100 injured, according to Arab sources. The army put the death toll at 15.

Israeli paper accuses army of playing down death toll in Palestinian protests

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli newspaper accused the army on Sunday of playing down the number of Palestinians killed in protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying the total was at least 25 compared with the army's figure of 15.

The left-wing newspaper Al Hamishmar said it learned from military sources and soldiers on reserve duty that at least 25 were killed in the 12 days of unrest.

"Reserve soldiers who served in Gaza said the army policy in recent days was to gain control over a dead body and bury it in the darkness of night," the newspaper said.

"According to their testimony, a number of deaths were not included in official announcements and there are many deficiencies surrounding the care of bodies and funerals."

An army spokeswoman said in

a statement to Reuters: "The Israeli (army) as a rule investigate every case of death. However, because of the intensity of events in the territories, we are unable to pinpoint the cause of every death that is investigated."

Checking with hospitals, families, the army and U.N. relief officials, Reuters has verified a death toll of at least 16.

The army spokeswoman gave a figure of 16 on Friday but later withdrew it.

The Palestine Press Service, which supports the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has published a list of names of 21 protesters it says have been killed since the riots began on Dec. 9.

It includes a 17-year-old girl who died at a funeral, apparently of a heart attack, and a demonstrator hit by a car in an accident. PLO headquarters in Baghdad issued a death toll of 49.

In spite of repeated requests the army was still unable on Sunday to give a list of names of the people it acknowledged were killed, making verification impossible.

Libya accused of violating Chad ceasefire

LONDON (R) — N'Djamena Radio said on Saturday Libyan Air Force planes had flown over northern Chad four times in the last three days, breaking a ceasefire established by the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) three months ago.

The radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, accused Libya of continuing its "warlike policy against Chad."



Elias Freij Bethlehem mayor says Christmas will be joyless

TEL AVIV (R) — Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij said on Sunday his city would celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas this year as in the past despite 11 days of riots in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"We will keep our Christmas celebrations according to protocol, according to our traditions, and I will never mix religions with politics," the Christian mayor of the West Bank town told reporters.

But he said: "This is going to be a joyless Christmas. Palestinian activists have tried to persuade Mr. Freij to cancel all but a minimum of ceremonies after soldiers killed at least 16 anti-Israeli Arab demonstrators in riots that erupted on Dec. 9."

The activists said the mayor refused to sacrifice the big business Christmas pilgrims brought the town, occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

In Jerusalem, an Israeli tourism ministry spokeswoman, asked about the impact the violence had on pilgrims, told Reuters: "At this moment there is no effect on tourists who are coming. There are no cancellations."

Ceremonies begin on Christmas Eve with the arrival in Manger Square of the Latin patriarch for the Holy Land. They reach their climax with a midnight mass in St. Catherine's Basilica, next to the Church of the Nativity over Jesus's traditional birthplace.

"Christmas is special in Bethlehem. And the whole world, throughout the world, today and this week and next week will be looking toward Bethlehem," Mr. Freij said.

Last December, Israel sent in troop reinforcements to guard the holy sites and patrol narrow cobblestone alleyways after four West Bank Palestinians were killed in what was then the worst anti-Israeli violence for years.

Bethlehem municipality says Muslims this year for the first time outnumber Christians in the city.

Beirut's Martyrs' Square destroyed by war

By Peter Smerdon
Reuters

BEIRUT — In the ruined heartland of Lebanon's capital, 17-year-old Elias put his U.S.-made M-14 rifle to one side and squinted at the faded postcard of Beirut. He peered for several minutes before smiling.

"It's the Rivoli Cinema," the militiaman said quietly, awed by the postcard view of Martyrs' Square in 1960s peace with its busy shops, open-air cafes, traffic jams and lush palm trees.

A full in one sector of the combat which has for so long racked his country gave Elias a chance to look around.

"And there it still is," he shouted triumphantly but mistakenly, pointing not at the now-charred picture palace at the other end of the square but at the shell-blasted Nadi Al Shark office building.

N. Yemeni president in UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — North Yemen's President Ali Abdullah Saleh arrived on Sunday for a three-day official visit, his third to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

He will have talks with President Sheikh Zaid Ibn Sultan Al Nahyan on the Iran-Iraq war, Arab issues, and bilateral ties, the official Emirates' News Agency (WAM) said.

He was met at the airport by Sheikh Zaid, who visited Sanaa last year to inaugurate the \$90-million Mareb Dam which he financed.

Iran sends message to Gulf Arab states

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian President Ali Khamenei has sent a message to Gulf Arab leaders calling for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from the region, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

A senior Iranian Foreign Ministry official, Mohammad Hussein Lavasani, delivered Mr. Khamenei's message to the rulers of Qatar and Bahrain on Saturday.

IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, said Mr. Lavasani told officials in Qatar that Iran would continue its seven-year war with Iraq until "the aggressor is punished."

Another Iranian envoy, Hussein Sadiqi, met Oman's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Yousef Ibn Alawi Ibn Abdullah, on Saturday.

Mr. Alawi later left for Syria, Iran's main supporter in the Arab World, to discuss the situation in the Gulf, the Omani News Agency said.

Elias, five-years-old when Lebanon's civil war started, could no longer recognise the landmarks of Martyrs' Square.

Once the traditional centre of Lebanon's cosmopolitan life, the Ottoman-style square is now home only to rats, a few cats, fewer birds and young guards from the Falangist Lebanese Forces (LF) militia.

But in the minds of many older residents, the square at the sea-side end of the five-mile (eight-kilometre) "green line" battle zone dividing Beirut since 1975, remains the heart and soul of their capital.

Elias never visited the Rivoli before stirrings of war cut short its screenings, closed bars, offices and brothels and blew out the glitzy neon advertising signs.

"Its fame was our greatness," said a former resident, who abandoned his barber's shop in the square. "Thousands from all over the world came there. But who would want to go there now?"

Named after 16 rebels against Ottoman rule who were hanged there on May 6, 1916, the square by day throbbled as Beirut's business centre and each night as a famed rendezvous.

But then the war arrived. With Syrian troops and pro-Syrian Shi'ite Muslim Amal mili-

tiamen dug in on its south west corner, it is now an arena for Falangist and opposition snipers even in a period of relative calm.

All six LF guards were finally needed to locate, with much shouted argument, where the downtown's wrecked landmarks lay.

"It's changed a lot, hasn't it," Elias said.

The colour postcards of the square remain on sale in a few Beirut shops because tourists vanished as fast as peace did.

The Rivoli still stands but, like all its neighbours, every inch of its facade has been pounded by the square's Lebanese Falangist, Lebanese opposition, Syrian and Palestinian conquerors.

The shops and cafes are dusty, shell-blasted caverns, the offices and hotels ransacked edifices, the road is smothered by barricades and the palms have been pruned to stumps by years of flying gunfire.

Still dominating the square is the graceful Ottoman-built gendarmarie, but it is a skeleton smashed by rocket and shell.

In front is a bronze bullet-riddled statue of a woman, holding a flaming torch aloft as she shields a young man.

Behind the gendarmarie looms the Share' Al Mutanabi, the

area's renowned brothel before the war, its verandah columns chipped away to breaking-point by attack and counter-attack.

A wasteland of trenches and barricades — formed of hole-shipping containers and a bus — obliterates the spot where the bandstand stood on a pleasant grassy area in the square centre.

Tired of spotting the sights, the LF gunmen returned to digging foundations for yet another sand-bagged wall to keep out but winter cold and bullets.

At their post, a tiled former hotel room with two walls blasted out, other militiamen lounge on seats taken from the area's dozens of shot-up and abandoned cars. The group's commander Joseph, at 22 a veteran, carefully combs his moustache.

As if to make small amends for the past — but actually to make their post more habitable — fighters have built a new out wall.

"We sleep behind there a night if it's quiet," said Elias, a 18-year-old, stepping back proudly to display the white-painted wall and at its foot a narrow flowerbed.

But the row of purple flowers freshly planted in a shallow inch of too much sandbag sand and too little soil, were dying.

U.S. battleship gives experimental drones on-the-job training in Gulf

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following dispatch was filed by John H. Cushman Jr. of the New York Times, a member of the News Media Pool covering U.S. naval activities in the Persian Gulf. Filed on Wednesday, it was released by the Pentagon on Saturday.

ABOARD THE U.S.S. IOWA IN THE ARABIAN SEA (AP) — Fellow officers sometimes call Lt.-Cmdr. Dana N. Griffin the battleship Iowa's "cag" — an acronym usually referring to the Commanding Air Group that directs an aircraft carrier's fighter jet squadrons.

But the only aircraft under Griffin's control are eight small, unmanned drones that can be launched from the deck of this World War II-vintage battleship and retrieved in nets hoisted above the ship's heavily armoured deck.

For the past year, the Iowa has been experimenting with the remotely piloted vehicles, or RPVs, which really are little more than modern airplanes designed to carry cameras aloft for a few hours at a time.

Early this month, when the Iowa arrived outside the Strait of Hormuz to join a battle group protecting convoys of tankers through the Iran-Iraq war zone, it opened a new chapter in naval tactics by becoming the first navy vessel to carry such robotic aircraft into an actual theater of operations.

"They're basically giving the ship back the capability she had when she had spotter aircraft," said Griffin.

The Iowa's battery of nine 18-inch guns, smaller guns and long-range cruise missiles make her perhaps the most lethal shore bombardment vessel in the world.

The remotely piloted vehicles give the behemoth eyes, flying far from the Iowa spotting targets for the big guns and determining whether they have been hit and destroyed.

With the RPVs, there is no need to send manned aircraft to the teeth of anti-aircraft batteries for a look around. The robot aircraft carry cameras capable of working in daylight or darkness and can transmit the pictures live to the ship, where officers control the flight protected by a foot of armour.

In 1983, when the Iowa's sister ship New Jersey was stationed off the coast of Lebanon, aircraft carriers had to put planes aloft to aid the bombardments of Druse militia units that were shelling Marines in their compound at the Beirut airport.

An American pilot, Lt. Robert Goodman, was shot down and captured over a Syrian-controlled area of Lebanon while on a reconnaissance mission with another pilot who was killed.

Military leaders, contemplating how the various American forces in the Gulf region might be used, have been concerned about a pilot falling into Iranian hands.

The drone aircraft helps alleviate this concern, just as an earlier version of the system did for Israeli forces during combat with the Syrians in the Bekaa Valley. Israel used RPVs to locate a defence sites and attack the before they could be used.

It was Israel that suggested the navy adopt the system. Ever since, the navy has been testing and adapting the vehicle to make it suitable on ship.

"We are doing all the development work on the RPV right here," said the Iowa's skipper, Capt. Larry Seagrist, who has reputation as a naval strategist. "We fly nearly every day, five days a week."

A pool of journalists of aspects of American operations in this region on behalf of American news organisations a few hours on the Iowa, including senior commanders watching a demonstration ship's huge guns at work.

Under rules governing press pool, reporters are given information about operations and their report screened by military officials to prevent disclosure of classified information.

TV & RADIO

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PROGRAMME ONE

15:50 Korin

15:55 Programme review

15:55 Cartoons and children programmes

16:45 Journeys to Art

17:10 Jack Halborn

17:40 Physics in Action

18:10 Arabic series

19:10 Local programme

19:40 Programme review

20:00 News in Arabic

20:40 Arabic series

21:30 Local programme (Studio of Art)

22:10 Arab doctors

23:00 News Summary in Arabic

23:10 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 "L'Amour de la Vie" Part 2 of a documentary on Napoleon Bonaparte

19:00 News in French

19:15 Weekly Sport magazine (French)

19:30 News in Hebrew

19:45 Varieties

20:00 News in Arabic

20:30 Kate and Alice

21:00 Communications

21:10 Falcon Crest

21:30 News in English

22:30 A Killing on the Exchange (new mini series)

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& partly on 960 KHz. SW

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07:00 Light Music

07:30 Newsdesk

08:00 Morning Show

10:00 News Summary

10:05 Just a Minute

11:00 Yes Minister

12:00 News Summary

12:05 Pop Session

13:00 News Summary

13:05 Pop Session Contd.

14:00 News Bulletin

15:30 Piano Magic

15:00 Concert Hour

16:00 News Summary

16:05 Instrumentals

16:30 Old Favourites

17:30 Pop Session

18:00 News Summary

18:05 Sports Roundup

18:30 Music

19:30 Newsdesk

19:30 Date with a Star

20:00 Evening Show

21:00 News Summary

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Documenta" — art exhibition at the Goethe Institute (until Dec. 23)

* "Sue" painting by Hans Sauter at 4:00 p.m., at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation (until Dec. 25)

* An art exhibition by Samir Mashah at the Cultural Centre - Jabal Amman (until Dec. 31).

* An art exhibition entitled "The Architect of Mamluk Jerusalem" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts in cooperation with the British Council (until Dec. 30).

FILMS

* Feature film "White Christmas" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

* "Lorca" Spanish film at 4:30 p.m. at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 6610267

American Centre .. 644771

British Council .. 614320

French Cultural Centre .. 637099

Goethe Institute .. 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642048

Spanish Cultural Centre .. 639777

Haya Arts Centre .. 665195

Husseini Youth City .. 667181/6

Y.W.C.A. .. 641793

Amman Municipal Library .. 637111

Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has

EXHIBITIONS

Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 4:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

SERVICE CLUBS

The Amman Lions Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Regency Palace Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.

Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman. 8:00 p.m. Tel. 816534.

817534.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman. Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luweibdeh. Tel. 637440.

Health Ministry allocates JD 10 million for medical centre at Irbid university

By Abdullah Nsour
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh said Sunday that the Ministry of Health had allocated JD 10 million for investment in the King Abdullah Medical Centre at the campus of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) in Irbid. He said that work on the designs for the project was expected to be completed early next year before a tender will be announced for civil works.

Dr. Hamzeh, commenting on remarks by Parliament members at Saturday's Lower House session on health services in the Kingdom, said that the Ministry of Health was going ahead with projects which, among others, include the Prince Hamzeh Hospital in Amman. This hospital, he said, will be the second to be owned by the Ministry of Health in the capital after the 30-year-old Al Bashir Hospital.

"This is, in addition to the Jordan University Hospital, which was set up by the Ministry of Health before it was turned over to the University of Jordan," Dr. Hamzeh noted.

He said the designs and documents for the Prince Hamzeh Hospital were ready and a tender for its construction at the cost of JD 15 million would be announced soon.

Dr. Hamzeh noted that the hospital would be financed through a loan from the Italian government but said the ministry would first embark on the infrastructure before turning over the project to the Italians to carry it out. The designs were earlier referred to the ministry which introduced amendments to them before they were sent back to Italy and the Italian government has promised to dispatch the designs so the initial work can begin, the minister said.

On remarks by Parliament deputies about the need for a nursing college in Karak Governorate, the minister said that the ministry was keen on establishing nursing colleges in various governorates but the ministry needs first to secure sufficient numbers of staff for training. For this purpose the Ministry of Health has embarked on setting up a nursing training college to turn out female nursing instructors in Amman.

Seminar on journalism calls for national media strategy to convey the truthful image of Jordan to outside

Two-day meeting ends with recommendation that unemployed media graduates be enrolled by JPA and absorbed by various local organisations

By Elia Nasrallah and Nermeen Murad

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on problems facing journalists in Jordan has called for an amendment to the Press and Publication Law and the Jordan Press Association (JPA) statute to accommodate new journalism graduates as supporting members while protecting the rights of its current members.

The seminar also called for adopting a national strategy on communications which would reflect Jordan's centrist policies and would be a bridge connecting Jordan with the rest of the world with special emphasis on Jordanians living outside the country. It also called for laying the foundation for integrated policies that can control, conduct and guide information services in the country to ensure credible journalistic practices that can counter foreign media campaigns.

The seminar, issuing recom-

mendations at the end of the two-day deliberations, also proposed that the "Journalism Honour Charter" contained in the JPA statute be considered the constitution for journalism in Jordan.

Among the recommendations was also a call on the Ministry of Labour to refrain from issuing work permits to non-Jordanians applying for a media job in Jordan without approval by the JPA.

The seminar called on the various media organisations in Jordan, including the newspapers, to employ some of the unemployed journalism graduates in the country.

A united effort from journalism colleges, the Ministry of Information and the JPA was necessary towards creating training centres for mass communication graduates, the seminar's recommendations said.

The role of public relations as "an integral part of the media and mass communications process and as an indication of economic and cultural supremacy" was stressed through a recommendation. It called for raising awareness of the importance of this role among owners and managers of private companies and institutions to allow for the creation of more effective public relations departments which could in turn absorb more media graduates.

Establishing a journalism information centre for studies and research was cited as a basic need

in Jordan.

Professionalising journalism and mass communications at large was also recommended as well as a call was made on the Ministry of Education to integrate media studies in secondary schools and school radio stations.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who attended Sunday's morning session of the seminar, stressed the need for the information media, in their capacity as developmental tools, to concentrate efforts on creating more skilled and trained manpower which can interact and deal with technological developments in the field of communications.

Prince Hassan noted that "freedom of the press in Jordan is comparatively broad" when compared with many other countries. But, he said, Jordanian journalists "have failed to utilise this margin of freedom towards benefiting mass media within the framework of Jordan's policies which advocate centricism and responsible freedom."

He added that Article 15 of the Constitution ensures freedom of opinion which could be manifested in all means of expression provided that such freedom is confined to the limits of law.

"Philosophers throughout history maintained that freedom should be closely associated with responsibility. Otherwise it would be a means of sabotage," said Prince Hassan. He pointed out that the margins of freedom available in Jordan in the field of mass communication are represented in three laws: the Press and Publication Law of 1973, the 1971 law on protecting documents and state secret and the 1951 law on censorship of movie pictures.

Prince Hassan called for the adoption of a national policy on communications incorporating

regulations and instructions governing dealings with the information and press sectors within the framework of law.

He also called for laying the foundation for integrated policies that can control, conduct and guide information services in the country to ensure their service as instruments contributing to development process.

Prince Hassan remarked that work in the information media was becoming more and more specialised such as the process of gathering, storing and publishing information. "In fact, there should be sufficient academic training and qualification for journalists and there should be programmes for future work in the different specialisations," the Crown Prince said.

Upgrading the qualifications and performance of journalists has become an important specialised process in various nations and in the past two decades this process has also acquired the attention of Arab countries, he said.

Therefore said, the Crown Prince, Arab states have created institutes and colleges for teaching journalism and the growing number of these insti-

tutes has naturally led to the increase in the number of students specialising in journalism and affiliated skills like printing, telecommunication, photography etc.

But, he said, loopholes in the field of journalism itself have appeared. "For example, we still have a shortage in the number of qualified people who can write proper script for radio and television but there is a surplus in the number of journalists who can fill other positions," Prince Hassan said.

"For this reason I am justified in calling for a reassessment of the sector of journalism and information in this country since what we seek is a certain framework and specifications for people who should be accepted in professions and also in faculties which teach journalism," the Crown Prince said. "We seek to limit the number of unqualified from infiltrating into this profession."

Prince Hassan called for the "reorganisation of the journalism sector under a professional umbrella" since such an umbrella "was bound to contribute to the absorption of qualified manpower." "This in turn could lead to end

the problems and difficulties encountered in the journalism sector," he said.

Commenting on the fact that Jordan now has 118 unemployed media graduates, Prince Hassan said that their problem was "nothing compared with the thousands of people in other sectors who are still unemployed."

Prince Hassan called Yarmouk University's department of journalism to "embark on immediate measures for studying the local market needs of journalists" and should start training courses for the graduates to prepare them for actual work in the field.

He also called for serious attempts to produce written material in the form of publication and documentary films to be channelled into the international communication network to help "our image and carry our voice reach other countries of the world."

Vocational Training Corporation reviews activities

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan Sunday paid tribute to the role played by the Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) at the national and pan-Arab levels.

Speaking at a meeting of the VTC board, the minister said that Jordan has achieved a remarkable position in vocational training at the regional and international levels and that the VTC has provided skilled manpower and trained personnel in large numbers not only for Jordan but also for Morocco, Sudan, Bahrain, Eritrea and other countries.

Jordanian physician honoured

AMMAN (J.T.) — Major General Dr. Oumeish Youssef Oumeish, consultant and chairman of dermatology and venerology discipline at King Hussein Medical Centre, was granted the Fellowship of the American Academy of Dermatology (FAAD). He is the first Jordanian doctor to be honoured in this field. The certificate is usually granted to doctors of excellence.



Dr. Oumeish Oumeish

Hamzeh affirms commitment to support Centre for Environmental Health Activities

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman-based regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA) Sunday opened a meeting to discuss programmes for the 1988-1989 period and to look into the prospect of establishing an information network.

Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh addressed the opening session saying that his ministry provides due care and support for the centre and its activities, especially in issues pertaining to water, sanitation, disposal of waste, curbing pollution in food and housing and other fields.

These activities, he said, are part of the primary health care which the ministry is trying hard

to ensure for all citizens by the year 2000.

Stringent measures taken by the Ministry of Health to govern the recycling of used oil products in bakeries were vital so as to prevent any contamination of bread, the minister said noting that the ministry closes down any bakery which uses such oils in its operations.

He said that the centre has a major role to play in combating the pollution resulting from waste and dangerous chemicals and that the ministry will continue to support the centre's research programmes in this respect.

A representative of the direc-

tor of the regional office of the World Health Organisation, which co-sponsored the meeting, outlined the various activities of the centre and said that the centre is considered as the WHO's technical arm for the implementation of programmes dealing with potable water, sanitation, environmental, housing and combating pollution especially in food and drinking water.

Dr. Mohammad Islam Sheikh, chief of CEHA head office in Alexandria, Egypt attended the three-day meeting along with participants from Jordan, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Sudan as well as the WHO's regional office.

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بشارع وادي عيسى - تلفون ٨١٧٤١٩
جميع بناء الاسكان - تلفون ٦٠٦١٣
جبل عمان - شارع الرشيد - تلفون ٦٣٩٧١١
جبل عمان - بناية المينج - تلفون ٦٥٩٠٣٠
جبل الحسين - دوار خراس - ممرات نور - تلفون ٦٦٨٨١٣

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Healthy step forward

THE passage by acclamation of the Kingdom's 1988 fiscal budget by the Lower House of Parliament on Saturday has come as a strong evidence of the resounding success of the dialogue and joint responsibility equitably shared by the legislative and executive branches of government. After freely and responsibly submitting their views and interpretation of recent developments and the current situation, both in economic and political terms, the deputies cast their vote in accordance with their beliefs and convictions, in line with the Kingdom's sound policies and principles.

To be sure, there were marked variations of positions and stands on the numerous economic and fiscal policies facing our country; yet, the apparent division of opinion among legislators seem to have narrowed considerably in the wake of the clear and comprehensive reply of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai on all the issues that had nagged some of the law-makers. The healthy and positive interaction between the deputies and Mr. Rifai helped tremendously in crowning the day-long session Saturday with a remarkable success. Especially assuring in the prime minister's remarks on the report of the House's financial committee was the government's determination to exert all the needed efforts towards strengthening the Jordanian economy with all possible means. Mr. Rifai's pledge to curb public spending and to cover recurrent expenditures and part of capital spending from local revenues without resorting to borrowing is indeed comforting. His extensive discussion covering the government's plans to boost the Kingdom's exports of industrial and agricultural products, after giving these two vital sectors the needed support, also is an important step in the right direction as it would certainly improve the country's balance of payments.

The government's plans for short- and long-term policies to ease structural unemployment among Jordanians, whether by creating new job opportunities or by cooperating with other Arab states, and completing Jordan's economic infrastructure, as well as strengthening the capabilities of our productive and private sectors, among many others, are all positive factors which should add to our confidence in building a brighter economic future for the country.

In all, the debate that took place on the House's floor on Saturday was a very healthy sign that Jordanians took with a lot of interest and gratitude. Above all, it has proved under all circumstances that Jordan and Jordanians, leadership and people, can rise to the level of responsibility that is required and expected from all of us, and can work hand in hand to continue building this country and enhance its achievements.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Healthy interaction

THE Lower House of Parliament Saturday endorsed the 1988 fiscal budget and approved of a set of recommendations submitted to the House by its financial committee. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in an address to the House voiced appreciation of the interaction and cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of government and said that his cabinet will commit itself to the provisions of the new budget and the committee's recommendations. In addition, he said his cabinet will do all it can to strengthen the armed forces which serve as a shield for the Arab Nation, and pledged continued assistance to the Arab population under Israeli rule to enable them to safeguard their identity and protect their homeland. The prime minister's positive response to the committee's criticism and demands was a source of satisfaction for the deputies and the people, because that means the cabinet will abide by the proposals and recommendations which, among other things call for reducing expenditure, bolstering the private sector and carrying out social and economic schemes. The prime minister's statement reflected the aspirations of the Jordanian citizens and brought about more confidence in the present government. But it must be said that though the executive and legislative authorities are bent on working hard to serve the people, one should not rule out the important role of the citizens themselves, which is essential if these projects contained in the budget are to be successfully carried out.

Al Dustour: Democratic debate

THE open discussions at Parliament Saturday over the 1988 fiscal budget reflected a democratic practice on the part of the executive and legislative authorities in this country, and enhanced the concept of democratic rule and re-inforced the interaction between the two branches of government in the Kingdom. The Lower House of Parliament's financial committee was quite frank and clear in its criticism of the government's activity; and the speakers debated in detail the different aspects of the draft budget in a manner that clearly reflects all parties' responsibility towards their country and their determination to carry out all that is necessary to serve the Jordanian citizens. The prime minister's positive reply to the speeches of deputies embodied all that the Parliament members were concerned about, and provided answers for outstanding questions which still impede successful development. The prime minister said that the budget was an ambitious one and aims at achieving the aspirations of the people; and he pledged that his colleagues will strictly abide by the terms and the provisions of the budget, and the recommendations of the financial committee. It was a relief to hear the prime minister announce that the government will maintain full support for measures to back the Arab people in the occupied Arab territory and to strengthen the armed forces for national defence.

Sawt Al Shaab: Positive reply

THE prolonged debate at the Lower House of Parliament on Saturday reflected the great attention and concern given to the affairs of the country on the part of the deputies and the government alike. The budget which was debated in detail reflected the volume of work awaiting the government, building upon previous achievements, and the continued process of construction and march towards progress and prosperity. The deputies were keen on tackling the economic situation in the country, and on voicing their concern over the developments in the occupied Arab land. They were careful to ask the government to extend more support for the people under Israeli rule and to urgently tackle the question of unemployment and the national economy. The prime minister for his part provided positive answers to these questions, thus outlining the future orientation of the present government with regard to assistance to the Arab people in the occupied regions and with regard to the economic and social development in the country.

Palestinian uprising and U.N. obligations

By Waleed Sadi

THE uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has crystallised some pertinent ideas on how to deal with the situation in those territories pending the resolution of the Israeli occupation of those areas in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions. To begin with it must be accepted as natural that the Arab inhabitants of these territories would "revolt" against Israeli occupation per se after twenty years of it. The natural law applicable to all similar situations would necessitate some kind of resurrection or another against the occupying authorities. The contemporary and ancient history of colonialism, trusteeship and sheer military conquest and occupation has demonstrated time and again that the patience of the subjugated and oppressed peoples has always a limit although the duration of such patience and endurance varies from people to people. The Israeli occupiers should be the first to realise that they cannot maintain the lid of occupation on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip forever and with impunity. The sooner the Israeli government, Likudist or otherwise, recognises the unnatural state of affairs in the West Bank the better for them and their neighbours. Must the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation repeat their uprising against occupation in every season and on every occasion to drive home the point that the occupation must end one way or another? How many signals do the Israelis need to comprehend the Palestinians' thirst for freedom and liberation? For how many years more do they expect to maintain their hold on Arab territories? Surely they cannot be waiting till the Arab population under occupation exceeds the two million mark.

With regard to the various formulae that have been advanced of late to deal with the most recent wave of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, I find that the proposal to have the United Nations

investigate the Israeli practices against the Arab inhabitants and monitor the situation there through some machinery or another as perhaps the most functional interim solution until the projected United Nations conference on peace in the Middle East can be called to order. I came to this conclusion advisedly and in spite of my recognition that Israel has shunned U.N. investigating teams since the beginning of its occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and refused point blank to cooperate with them or even to allow them to set foot in these territories. There are several attempts by the U.N. General Assembly to "penetrate" the Israeli occupation in order to investigate its unlawful practices against the inhabitants of the territories. Many other U.N. specialised agencies as the International Labour Organisation (ILO) have also attempted to perform the same or similar functions but all such efforts came to naught.

To be sure, practically all countries of the world refuse to cooperate in principle with international investigatory machineries unless they are established with their consent. The consensus among member states of the U.N. that any such compulsory international investigation contravenes their sovereignty rights as construed in their most liberal manifestations. All efforts exerted thus far by the U.N. and its specialised agencies to encroach on this liberal interpretation of sovereignty have been frustrated by government fears and paranoia that any such initial tolerance of any such international "interferences" could open the doors of further encroachments into their domestic affairs with no limit in sight.

Yet the situation posed by the Israeli occupation is distinguishable from the normal cases where the governments concerned are fearful of relinquishing their sovereignty rights and prerogatives. The most

redeeming factor in favour of enforcing all United Nations efforts to investigate various Israeli practices in the occupied territories is the fact that some sort of an international regime exists in those territories by virtue of the applicability of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention to those territories. Sovereignty per se rests in the country from which those territories were conquered, i.e., Jordan. Since Jordan not only consents to United Nations investigations of Israeli practices in the occupied territories but also promotes all proposals leading to such international investigations, it follows that there are no "legal" impediments to have the Israeli occupation monitored and investigated on a quasi permanent basis. It will be recalled that there is unanimity among the state members of the United Nations system that the said 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable to the Arab occupied territories and such an international instrument regulates the various Israeli practices and policies not only in the West Bank and Gaza Strip but also in the Golan Heights as well. And since there is a body of international norms and principles which governs the occupied territories, it follows that the international community has not only the right but also the obligation to monitor and investigate the various Israeli practices and policies in all the occupied Arab territories. All that is left is to have the international community manifest a concerted political will in that direction. Obviously the onus of responsibility in this context rests on the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Needless to add, those major powers within the United Nations system have also the means to do without international investigations should they proceed wholeheartedly and expeditiously in the direction of convening an international peace conference to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian case.

Emirates exporters turn their eyes from Iran

Export flows to Iran have suffered from the recent intensification in the Gulf war, and while this has hit traders in Dubai more strongly than in Abu Dhabi, the Emirates as a whole have suffered the effects, says Joan Wucher King.

LIFE FOR manufacturers in the United Arab Emirates is not easy. The domestic market is small and locally-produced goods have to compete on quality, price and availability with imports over which there is no control.

Local manufacturers face an ever-changing market as the expatriate workforce — the majority of the population — alters in composition and each new wave of expatriates brings its own product preferences.

The UAE's export sector is becoming an increasingly attractive option for local manufacturers to develop. The country's exports, however, traditionally reflected the health of the regional economy and showed a 12 per cent fall-off when the recession hit in 1985, the last period for which full figures are available. Export flows to Iran have suffered from the recent escalation of the Gulf war, and while this has hit traders in Dubai more strongly than in Abu Dhabi, the Emirates as a whole have suffered the effects.

It is unclear as yet whether this presages a larger shift in Iranian trade patterns with the Gulf. Some of this decline, especially in the re-export sector, may well reflect the Iranian government's ambivalence about personal imports, allowances for which were cancelled in the spring and restored in the summer. Currency devaluation has also played a part and, as pressure on Iranian oil exports increases, the resultant decrease in Tehran's foreign exchange earnings will have further repercussions for non-oil UAE exports.

It is difficult to get exact figures on UAE trade with Iran, much of which moves unofficially. Dubai's re-export market, the best available indicator, showed a slight decline in 1986 before recovering sharply in the first half of 1987, but has since slowed. This dependence on trade with Iran for export earnings can be reduced only by developing markets outside the Gulf. India is an increasingly important trade partner for the UAE and the two countries recently concluded a joint-venture phosacid plant at Jebel Ali.

The free trade zone at Jebel Ali has seen a big increase in business which, in line with trends elsewhere in the Emirates, has strong south Asian participation, and 135 companies are now in the zone, representing investment of \$1 billion. Textile production for export has been rising sharply and since 1981 production has increased almost 200 per cent.

Some textile manufacturers in the zone see production there as a way of avoiding U.S. quotas on textile imports from their home countries. But as a recent Emirates Industrial Bank report says, while there is no U.S. textile quota for UAE manufactures, increasing levels of textile exports may cause these to be imposed. As a bank designed to promote industrial development in the UAE, the Emirates Industrial Bank faces a complex task in identifying and supporting ventures able to thrive and compete in a difficult local market. The bank places much emphasis on research, marketing and package-

drop and may revive arguments for restructuring the dirham against a broader currency basket.

In spite of the tension in the Gulf — perhaps because of it — the government has sought to keep the economic atmosphere as open as possible, given the debt problems being faced by local banks. The Gulf war has a low profile in the UAE, in contrast with Kuwait, where the atmosphere is certainly a lot less relaxed.

The improvement in the oil market is likely to keep the import sector buoyant, although the depreciation of the dollar will be reflected inevitably in import patterns. — Financial Times news.

Inflexibility remains after Korean election

By Barry Renfrew

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea's presidential election was a perfect illustration of how its people want a stable democracy, and of how political divisions and hatred stand in the way.

Few people were surprised when the opposition refused to accept the victory of government candidate Roh Tae-woo in the first direct presidential election in 16 years. Nor was there much surprise when the opposition vowed to take to the streets to topple Roh before the vote counting was even completed.

"You can bet your bottom dollar that the elected president will face an almost insurmountable situation after his victory," the Korea Herald said a week before the election.

South Korean politics has been dominated by factionalism, regionalism and an outlook that sees compromise as weakness and insists on victory at all costs. There is no room for dissent or opposing points of view in Korean politics.



That kind of inflexibility was made apparent when opposition candidates Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung said during the campaign that Roh could not win a democratic election. They responded to Roh's election with charges of election fraud, which the government denied.

If South Korea is to have a stable democratic system, analysts agree, it must break the stranglehold of factional politics and regional divisions. It won't be easy in a country that has never had a peaceful transfer of power.

But there were encouraging signs of change during the election campaign. Many people exulted in the fact they had been able to cast votes to select a new president after a democratic campaign and said they wanted an end to the country's many divisions.

"A grand reconciliation of the people is an urgent requirement coming close on the heels of the presidential election," the Korea Times said in an editorial.

Some analysts saw Roh's victory as a plea for stability. The former general claimed during

the campaign he alone could usher in lasting democracy. He warned that the opposition would bring chaos.

Many Koreans who voted for Roh said they saw in him the best hope of ending the nation's long tradition of authoritarian government while also ensuring political peace.

"The victory of government candidate Roh Tae-woo means the people chose a resolute political leadership based on the principle of gradual reforms amid stability," the newspaper JoongAng Ilbo said in an editorial.

Most observers agree South Korea now has a degree of political freedom that would have seemed unthinkable even six months ago, when almost any open show of dissent was broken up by riot police firing tear gas.

There has been broad liberalisation since hundreds of thousands of people took to the streets across the nation in June to demand an end to authoritarian rule. President Chun Doo-Hwan, a former general who took power with military backing in 1980, bowed to demands for

direct presidential elections. The presidential campaign, in some respects, was democracy at its best. Candidates held rallies across the country, huge columns of supporters marching peacefully through Seoul and other cities, and people freely talked about what they wanted.

Some Koreans also were criticizing the two Kims for splitting the opposition and throwing away what had seemed a certain victory. Both men insisted they had to run for democracy's sake.

"The two Kims should deeply reflect on themselves... because the people encouraged their struggle for democracy but did not support their division," the newspaper Dong-A Ilbo warned.

The question facing South Korea now is whether its traditional politics of confrontation and violence will prevail or if there is a chance for the country to make progress.

The answer will be worked out both in the chambers of government and the streets as the ruling party and its opponents make their separate appeals.

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In his reply to the Lower House of Parliament financial committee's recommendation: Prime minister pledges continued support for the Armed Forces and the West Bank and outlines moves for better control over public spending, varied measures for curbing unemployment and more investment in agriculture, housing

Following is the full text of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's speech to Saturday's session of the Lower House of Parliament which unanimously endorsed the King's 1988 draft budget.

IT GIVES me pleasure at the onset of my speech to offer, in my name and the name of my colleagues the ministers, my deep and sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the esteemed financial committee, to its chairman and rapporteur, for their sincere and continuous efforts they exerted in the preparation of the report on the draft budget law for the fiscal year 1988. It gives me pleasure also to praise the level of serious responsibility, the spirit of honest cooperation and the deep, comprehensive look that prevailed the discussions of the esteemed committee with the minister of finance and his colleagues the ministers and officials in the government.

It is not a strange thing, brothers, that this course (of cooperation) is ours because we are jointly participating, in the legislative and executive branches, in carrying the responsibility, and manifesting the principles of our constitution in cooperation and integration to erect the national monument and raise the standards of the citizen. We are, before that and after—members of the one Jordanian family, guided by the goals and principles set by His Majesty King Hussein the great.

Dear Chairman, Esteemed Deputies,

Our sincere calls to God Almighty to protect Jordan, a beloved homeland under the Hashemite leadership, is an expression of our belonging to our sacred land and national soil. Our gathering around the King is only a proof of our adherence to His Majesty's leadership.

The virtues of Al Hussein are many, they are embedded in every aspect of our lives and in all aspects of our free homeland. The clearest demonstration of these virtues is manifested in our courageous armed forces that are characterised with the honesty of position, the sincerity of belonging, armed with all means of development and strength. What is also another manifestation is the public security organs and civil defence, concerned with the safety and security of the citizen. The wisdom of the leader, his relentless work had the greatest role in establishing the basis of the internal front, and realising the achievements of the blessed economic and social progress, and setting the basis for Arab solidarity and deepening Jordan's credibility and its high status in the international arena.

Our one Arab Nation is proud with the great success achieved at the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Amman and is optimistic with its results. This conference has laid down the bases of accord and harmony, and enhanced joint Arab action.

The response by Arab leaders to His Majesty King Hussein's initiative to meet and consult on

the level of the summit and the interaction with the challenges of the present phase played a great role in the conference's success, and ushered the beginning of a united Arab movement towards achieving the goals and aspirations of the Arab Nation.

Duty compels us also to praise our good and belonging citizen, who every day, offers new examples in national pride and Arab belonging and commitment to the principles of Arab interaction.

We all turn to our people and brethren in the occupied Arab territories to salute them and express to them our pride and appreciation for their sacrifices and steadfastness, stressing that we are always with them in their confrontation of the occupation assault, enlisting all resources and capabilities to secure the rights of our people on its national soil.

Dear Chairman, Esteemed Deputies,

The financial committee report was characterised by a great measure of detail and analysis for most issues and subjects especially the difficult international and regional climate surrounding us and the conditions of the Israeli occupation and the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war, its expansion and the success of rectification operations and internal adjustments in accommodating changes and developments and the ability to keep basic indicators in a stable and balanced position. This analysis is in harmony with the contents of the speech from the throne at the opening of the fifth term of your council and in accord with the contents of the budget speech.

The government thanks the financial committee for praising the government policies in economic, social, health and education fields; in energy, water, local government and youth and joint Arab action. All this proves the harmony of vision between us, the sincerity of intentions in achieving the ambitions of the nation and in confronting problems and varying difficult circumstances.

The report indicated that in the area of aid, there is a clear and great increase of 68 per cent more than in last year's budget. It is worthwhile to point out that the figures that came in the budget are estimates for a forthcoming year, and that's why they are a document of hope and ambition. If we wanted to seek accuracy in specifying the amount of the committed annual Arab aid in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions, the figure would be much higher than mentioned in the draft budget for fiscal year 1988. If the mentioned figure for last year was higher than the one for this year, it is an expression of the government's confidence in the national commitment of brotherly Arab states towards us, especially after the great success achieved by the summit of accord and harmony in Amman.

The government agrees with the committee's remarks that the majority of infrastructural work for Jordan's national economy is completed and that the time is

ripe to start concentrating on productive projects with good economic yield. I would like to mention here that the government, through follow-ups and proper evaluation, is reviewing priority projects which aim at achieving a balance between the sectors of service and production to increase the economy's productive potential and prepare it to have a solid base for constant development. Hence, the development needs compel us to continue adding to the basic infrastructure to serve the needs of new production projects.

Because this policy is at the heart of our goals for the public sector, it is also important to call the private sector to enhance its role in the investment and direct production process especially in the presence of the existing basic infrastructure and the convenient investment climate.

The support of local production and its development is a priority of the government which has resorted to adopting a number of policies and measures to achieve this goal which have taken different forms such as: Protectionism through banning the import of locally-made similar products, protectionism through raising customs and other facilities within the rules and on the bases that would guarantee the preservation of quality and commitment to Jordanian specifications and the stability of prices. I would like to stress that the government's economic policy is based on the principle of free and equitable competition, and that protectionist measures are looked at as temporary measures that would be reconsidered in accordance with the prevailing conditions. This policy conforms with the remarks made by the financial committee.

Concerning comments by the committee about the large number of students currently enrolled in various stages of study which increased demand for high-level education because of the great influx of graduates from schools, and about the attrition of foreign currency because of many of our students seeking education abroad, in addition to psychological and social effects of such a situation, the government is aware of this problem and is working for its treatment and the government hopes this will result in the implementation of the recommendations of the national conference for education development on measures to organise the supply in the labour market with the skills required for our internal developmental needs and the needs of neighbouring Arab markets. This would serve to ease the problem of unemployment and organise the labour market.

On comments by the committee that the projects of the five-year development plan were not allocated their share in the budget, I would like to clarify that the development plan includes central government projects, public institutions as well as the private sector. And since capital and developmental spending in the general budget was limited to central government

projects, and since the size of investment in these projects in the draft budget for fiscal year 1988 conforms with spending in the third year of the five-year 1986-90 plan, this is an indication of the government's commitment to the plan's projects, the size of investment and the conformity of the budget's figures with the corresponding year in the plan.

Dear Chairman, Esteemed Deputies,

Ever since its establishment, the government has embarked on supporting municipal and rural councils and treating its financial difficulties. And as it was difficult for these councils to handle the problems accumulated on them while at the same time providing the needed services to citizens, the government has taken the needed measures and issued the appropriate decisions, carrying the financial burden of these councils to enable them to carry out their duties and responsibilities. This is the demand of your esteemed council and the recommendation of the financial committee. The government's policies in this direction for enhancing the capabilities of local authorities and for improving their financial status, has come in response with the demands of the esteemed council.

Emanating from the government's conviction for the need to control public institutions, auditing their revenues and expenditures, the Audit Bureau law has been recently amended to include in its items all these institutions. This is in full harmony with the committee's and its recommendations.

Concerning the general recommendations included in the financial committee's report, Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein has embarked from the first instance, on supporting brotherly Iraq in its confrontation with the Iranian aggression on its lands, and its plans to suppress Arab identity and dominate the Arab Nation. This Arab stand manifests the Jordanian national direction and its historic message and its call for Arab solidarity against threats.

His Majesty the King resumes his contacts with his brethren Arab leaders to reach Arab formulae that are capable of confronting the challenges presented by the Israeli-Iranian assault on Arab territories and people and their wealth, and to prepare the appropriate base for continuing coordination and integration in the various fields.

In accordance with the royal directives, the government carries out intensive contacts with Arab governments to lay down the ground for deepening joint Arab action and towards reaching suitable mechanism for the implementation of joint projects towards Arab economic integration.

Duty impels us to offer thanks and deep appreciation to brotherly Arab states that extend support to us at the top of which is the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and we are confident that our brothers, whose conditions stood in the way of extending the de-

fined assistance, will fulfil their commitments.

We also thank the organisations of Arab funds for responding to our developmental needs which had a great effect in implementing several vital projects.

Dear Chairman, Esteemed Deputies,

The government has underlined the importance of constructive dialogue, the exchange of opinion and consultations, cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities and the principle of common responsibility, towards the realisation of the public interest that we all cherish and to ensure decent living and economic prosperity to our citizens. All this is in line with comments made by the financial committee. In harmony with these principles, I hereby summarise my response to your committee's recommendations in accordance with their chronological order in the committee's report as follows:

1. The government endorsed the recommendation by the financial committee on the continuation of supporting our military institution and providing all means needed for its strength and power through arming and training. The government considers this support as its basic policy.

2. The government exerts all effort to support our people's steadfastness and struggle in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, out of its concern for strengthening the identity of our people on their national soil and out of its commitment for carrying out the duty of brotherhood and the unity of blood, goals and destiny. The government has established through development committees the bases that secure the safety of the implementation of projects aimed at improving the living conditions of our people there and to support their steadfastness.

3. On the financial and economic policies:

a- The government seeks to cover the current expenditure and a percentage of capital expenditure from local revenues, through controlling spending and improving revenue collection. The government is concerned with achieving this goal that would reduce resorting to borrowing. Until that goal is achieved, the government will continue to do all it can to limit and control borrowing in order to keep servicing public debts within safe limits that are accepted internationally. The government has also decided to direct any funds from due instalments from Arab states to cover the accumulated deficit and reduce the foreign debt and will not allocate any amount from these funds for new spending.

b- Aware of its limited resources, the government is tightening its controls on spending, particularly spending on development projects. It follows up on the execution to save what could be saved, taking into consideration the pressing necessities for projects that activate the economy. The current and recurrent

spending of governmental organs are the subject of the government's concern in order to rechannel them away from administrative luxury. Despite the allocation of funds in the general budget of 1988 for buying a number of cars and other equipment, the government has embarked on a comprehensive study to define what is already available and to determine what the new needs are. The actual spending would not be done except in the light of this study, despite the fact that the cars mentioned in the draft budget are field cars for projects.

c- On the comment by the committee on utilising foreign expertise in carrying out studies, it is well known that most of developmental projects included in the budget and the five-year plan are financed by loans and assistance coming from Arab and international institutions. These institutions insist on carrying out their own feasibility and technical studies for the state's projects to decide on extending these loans and assistance. All these studies carried out by foreign companies are done in cooperation with local companies and official institutions. The government demands from these companies to allow specialists at concerned ministries to take part in these studies so that our institutions will be able in the future to carry out these duties on its own as we have done with oil exploration projects and other projects.

Concerning studies financed by the treasury, the government gives priority for local engineering consultant companies for their execution.

d- The government thanks the financial committee for supporting efforts to reconsider the status of public institutions: The royal committee for administrative development has finalised a study on the liaison form with these institutions with the aim of improving their performance and controlling spending. The government is also bent on studying the status of each institution separately, to rectify its financial situation and reduce its dependence on the treasury, in order to reach a point of self-support in a specified period of time.

e- The government has handled the situation of several stumbling companies which led to rectifying their financial and administrative status and put them on the right course. These companies have become in a situation that allows them to support the national economy after being a burden on it. The government will do all it can

to continue the assessment of public shareholding companies that are of strategic value and to work to provide the needed atmosphere for their success and continued activity. The reasons and circumstances that led to losses by these companies have been explained to you in previous sessions and occasions.

f- Concerning the problem of structural unemployment, the government is concerned with organising the labour market through a comprehensive and integrated programme in the various fields. This programme aims to reconsider the concept of rehabilitation and employment in a way that compromises between the supply in the labour force with the development needs and Arab demands.

In affirmation of the statement by the financial committee in this regard, the government has adopted a number of measures that guarantee easing the problem of structural unemployment in the short term. These measures include:

— Committing community colleges, the main private schools and industrial and commercial institutions to appoint full time doctors in each in addition to assistants these doctors may need.

— Expanding primary health care in all government schools to cover all students.

— Institutionalising 600 jobs for engineers in a number of ministries, institutions and companies where training engineers would work and the rest would be filled by engineers seeking work, in accordance with their applications and the civil service commission.

— Obliging main municipalities to appoint full-time engineers at each municipality and committing other municipalities to appoint an engineer for every two municipalities or more in accordance with the volume of work there. Committing rural councils, after dividing them into groups in accordance with their geographical proximity to appoint an engineer for each group.

— Implementing the principle of part-time work in government departments in accordance to rules to be imposed for this purpose, which would increase the number of workers in the same job.

— Giving priority for Jordanian workers in the various fields and organising the influx of foreign workers.

— Intensifying contacts with

Arab oil producing countries to seek job opportunities for Jordanians there and to facilitate their work in these countries.

— Allocating JD 1.2 million in the 1988 budget for the first time to help support salaries of Jordanians who have been appointed in Arab states and where current conditions do not allow these countries to pay enough salaries. This would be done through a programme of technical cooperation with these states.

And since the unemployment issue is a national problem that requires a collective effort, the government expects the private sector and associations to shoulder their duties by accommodating job seekers and contributing to the technical cooperation programme.

The government's long-term measures to tackle unemployment will be followed up by the government through the outcome of the national conference for educational development and through reorganising education on all levels and planning to develop manpower and prepare it for skills that are needed for development purposes.

g- Public institutions which have financial and administrative independence work in accordance with special laws approved by your council which enabled these institutions to issue independent budgets. These institutions are subject to control by your council through the scrutiny of the Audit Bureau. The government has supplied your council with draft budgets for these institutions for the coming fiscal year for your attention.

The support fund mentioned in the committee's recommendation is part of the treasury's accounts. The deposited funds are to pay off financial commitments for supplying the Armed Forces since the Baghdad summit which determined Arab support. The fund is in a constant deficit because of a shortage in revenues compared to the Armed Forces commitments as a result of a decline in the size of Arab support. The spending from this fund is carried out upon decisions by the Cabinet, based on the budget law, through the Ministry of Finance. The money in this fund are not to be used for new purchases.

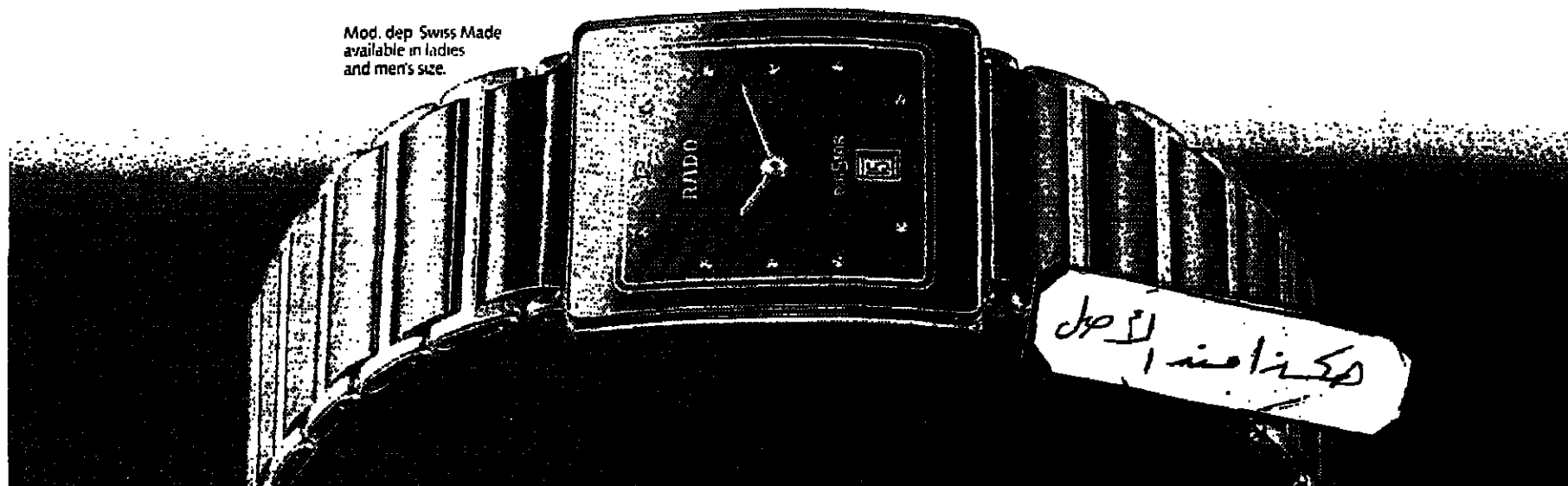
h- The question of retirement in the various institutions is done in accordance with established laws. The government is eager to benefit from the experiences of the

(Continued on page 6)

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Discipline always fits with budget.

Deputies hail His Majesty King Hussein's policies, government economic plan and the steadfastness of Arab people of the occupied territories

Following are summaries of speeches made by members of the Lower House of Parliament during Saturday's session in which the House debated and unanimously approved the budget:

Abdul Baqi Jammo Zarqa constituency

Deputy Jammo described the financial committee's decision as comprehensive and said it does not need any discussion.

Sheikh Jammo hailed the uprising of the people in the occupied Arab territories and their steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation. He also criticised those who are calling for freedom of parties work, similar to other countries, saying that "what characterises our parties is that their heads move from outside."

In this regard Sheikh Jammo recalled the havoc inflicted upon Arab countries by such parties.

He also called for supporting Iraq in its current war with Iran and stressed the need for stopping any aid to Iran. In this regard, Sheikh Jammo said, "The brutal Iranian aggression against Iraq is not but part of a Zionist plan, designed to encompass the whole Arab Nation and to lay a siege around it."

Sheikh Jammo called for curbing expenditure and limiting to a minimum the importation of luxurious commodities.

Misbah Kazimi Jerusalem constituency

Deputy Kazimi said that the deteriorating conditions in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip called for doubling the JD 10 million annual allocations for the social and economic development programme in the occupied territories. Such a move, he said, is of vital importance because it contributes to enhancing the steadfastness of the people in the occupied Arab lands.

Nicola Aqel Ramallah constituency

Deputy Aqel said that the country's budget was a major responsibility because it embodied the dedication of both leader and nation to build a bright future and to safeguard achievements.

Daoud Suleiman Daoud Jerusalem constituency

Mr. Daoud proposed that the

House issue a statement reaffirming the cohesion between the people of the two banks of Jordan and at the same time deploring Israel's arbitrary measures against the Palestinian people.

Mr. Daoud cited a phrase from His Majesty King Hussein's speech last week, in which the King said that Israel had not realised that geographical boundaries drawn up by guns and rifles cannot last for ever and would be removed by the forceful will and determination of the people.

Israel, he said, should learn from history and that repression against the Arab people under its rule could not stifle the spirit of resistance.

Mr. Daoud also proposed that the House send the United Nations a copy of its statement in which the House appealed to world organisations for helping to save the Arab people in occupied Palestine from oppression.

Wahid Jaabari Hebron constituency

Mr. Jaabari supported government assistance to the Arab people of the occupied territories specially in the commercial, educational, industrial and agricultural fields and requested that the government help in solving the problem of unemployment in the occupied territory.

He also called on the government to re-examine expenditure and to extend help to families with limited income.

Referring to the West Bank, he said, that university graduates faced difficult conditions resulting from unemployment and for this reason they sought work in Israeli factories and institutions for little pay.

Mr. Jaabari also referred to the difficult condition of people living in refugee camps in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and said that the winter season was making their condition even worse. He urged the government to work with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in extending all possible help to the refugees.

Mr. Jaabari urged the Ministry of Occupied Territories Affairs to try to raise more than the JD 10

million allocated for helping Arab people in the occupied territory because he said these were insufficient for development projects there.

Mr. Ziyad Al Younis Tulkarm constituency

Mr. Younis paid tribute to the positive aspects of the House's financial committee report which clearly points out the positive aspects of the Jordanian economy and stability of the Jordanian dinar.

The report, he said, clearly indicated that Jordan's national economy was steadily growing and that deposits were increasing while the deficit in the budget was continuously showing a tendency towards declining. He also referred to the constant trend towards a drop in the deficit in the balance of trade and the stable prices of commodities and services which he said came as a natural result of the application of laws and regulations and the government measures to encourage investment.

Mr. Younis voiced support for the committee's call on the government to bolster the capability of the Jordanian Armed Forces and its recommendation for increased allocations for supporting the steadfastness of the Arab people in the occupied land.

He called on the government to increase its support and allocations for the cooperative organisations of the occupied territories which help in implementing social and economic projects. Such projects he said are bound to enhance the stand of the Arab people in the face of Israel's practices and drive to evict Palestinians from their homeland.

Hafez Abdul Nabi Hebron constituency

Dr. Abdul Nabi said that people in the occupied Arab territories were optimistic at the positive results of the extraordinary Arab summit, held in Amman last November. He praised the government's efforts to support people in the occupied territories, saying that the allocation of necessary funds to the occupied West Bank's and Gaza Strip's economic and social development programme contributed to the steadfastness of people and to

alleviating their sufferings.

Dr. Abdul Nabi hailed the government's decision to give salaries to teachers who have been appointed in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip after 1967. He added that other employees were seeking the same treatment. The Hebron deputy also praised the Ministry of Health decision to dispense medicine to all health insured persons in the occupied West Bank free of charge.

He called for increased allocations to the Ministry of Awqaf to enable it to perform its host of duties, including preaching, guidance, construction of mosques, running of orphanages and secondary education institutions.

Jalal Qalab Mafraq constituency

Deputy Qalab praised the King's efforts to safeguard security and stability and secure dignity of the people and his dedicated and continuous endeavours to support the steadfastness of the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories.

On the Arab front, King Hussein's efforts to restore Arab solidarity and unity and his continuous and dedicated work to achieve this end deserves every applause and praise, Mr. Qalab said.

He expressed appreciation to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's efforts to realise the development plans of Jordan and to build national power through the development plans and His Highness's keen interest in developing the educational process.

Mr. Qalab called for directing more fund for the support of the Jordanian Armed Forces and the People's Army and the Public Security and Civil Defence departments, saying that they were a cause for our pride and a symbol of our power and steadfastness.

Fayyad Jarrar Jenin constituency

Deputy Fayyad Jarrar expressed appreciation for the government's remarkable efforts to prepare the 1988 budget and for its efforts to safeguard security and stability of the country.

Mr. Jarrar praised the government's plans to support the stead-

fastness of our kinsmen in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, saying that our people there proved by their belonging to the land.

"They have given the best examples of the Arab citizens' steadfastness and the firm belief that right is more powerful than power," he said.

Mr. Jarrar called on the government to adopt the House

financial committee's recommendations on cutting down expenditure and depending on the Jordanian experts in all fields.

Nawaf Al Qadi Badia constituency

Deputy Al Qadi praised King Hussein's efforts to develop the

country and to safeguard its security and stability and made a special reference to Prince Hassan's contribution towards the country's development plans.

Mr. Qadi called for improving services in the northern Badia region and for the construction of agricultural factories, including corn oil factory and a tomato paste factory in the Mafraq Gov-

ernorate. He also called on the government to grant farmers easy loans without or with reduced interest and for giving livestock breeders permission to drill artesian wells to be able to grow the various kinds of grass needed for their livestock. Mr. Al Qadi also called for increased support for the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territories to enable them to counter Israeli occupation plans.

Rifai replies to Lower House committee's recommendations

(Continued from page 5)

staff in these institutions for the longest possible time.

As for the Armed Forces housing fund established in 1969, it serves all those who contribute to the fund's income since its establishment. It is not feasible for the fund to benefit those who did not contribute to it.

The government stresses that the funds that the government will allocate for the Ministry of Awqaf for the fiscal year 1988 according to the chapter on spending in page 23 of the budget document, will not be less than the funds allocated for the year 1987. The allocated funds for this ministry will be mentioned in a special article in the coming budgets in accordance with the recommendation of the committee.

The role of the Ministry of Awqaf is an organisational and informative one, dealing with the handling of waqf property including mosques and preparing preachers and imams, an spreading Koranic homes, and Islamic cultural centres in the Kingdom. The ministry has accomplished the following:

a- The maintenance of preachers and imams whose numbers increase by nearly 150 annually.

b- The number of mosques in the East Bank stands at 1,512 and 750 in the West Bank. In Amman alone, there are 450 mosques, an increase of 300 mosques in the Kingdom in the last three years. This calls for making available the imam, the preacher, the muazzin, the servant, water, electricity, and maintenance for each mosque which would have to be paid by the ministry every year.

c- The number of cultural centres established in the last three years have reached three centres, with a total of nine centres for

males and eight for females.

The number of Koranic homes has reached 150. Three years ago, the number was only 70.

The ministry has established a centre for rehabilitation and has finished from preparing for the first phase curriculae including appointments.

The number of colleges and academies that the ministry finances is seven.

The ministry has finalised the first stage of the mosque of the late King Abdullah at a cost of JD 3.25 million and has allocated JD 1.25 million more for the second phase. The government has also allocated JD 500,000 for the mosques of Prophet Mohammad's disciples and JD 500,000 for preserving the Aqsa Mosque annually.

In the light of all this, I am surprised to see in the recommendation of the committee that the role of the Ministry of Awqaf in building mosques was negligible and that its role in preparing preachers and imams and spreading Koranic houses and Islamic cultural centres was still stumbling.

4. The agricultural sector: a- The agricultural sector has given great attention in terms of organisation and support, which indicates that the total decisions and measures taken by the government to support the agricultural sector and farmers, in addition to the size of direct and indirect investment in this sector, constitute in their totality an integrated programme to help the development of the farming sector. The government will exert all effort to seek all means possible to develop this sector.

b- The government agrees with the recommendation of the committee on the need to reconsider the institutional framework for institutions working in the farm-

ing sector with the aim of avoiding duplication of work and for the coordination of efforts through merging the concerned lending institutions dealing with agriculture. The Royal Committee for Administrative Development has studied this subject and laid out preliminary perceptions for organising public institutions within the agricultural sector.

c- The government has actually adopted several measures to limit the importation of agricultural products that are also produced locally.

d- The aim of establishing the Jordanian Company for Marketing and Manufacturing Agricultural Products is to organise agricultural marketing and to open new markets for agricultural produce. The company has succeeded in preserving traditional markets and in opening new markets for exports in nine European countries. The company is currently seeking to secure additional air transport facilities to deal with the increased demand for Jordanian products in foreign markets. There are studies underway for the establishment of factories to manufacture agricultural products. A tender has actually been awarded for the establishment of a citrus factory, in addition to factories licensed for the private sector.

e- The government will continue to support the prices of fodder and animal feed to develop the animal wealth and to support the crops that need to be encouraged such as grain.

f- Concerning the government subsidy of petrol products for agricultural producers who depend on underground waters, the government will conduct a comprehensive study of the cost of petrol products that these producers depend on, and will look into means and possible alternatives to reduce the cost of pump-

ing underground water within the available capabilities, in response to the committee's recommendation.

g- The government is concerned with reactivating exports and supporting them in general, particularly the farm exports.

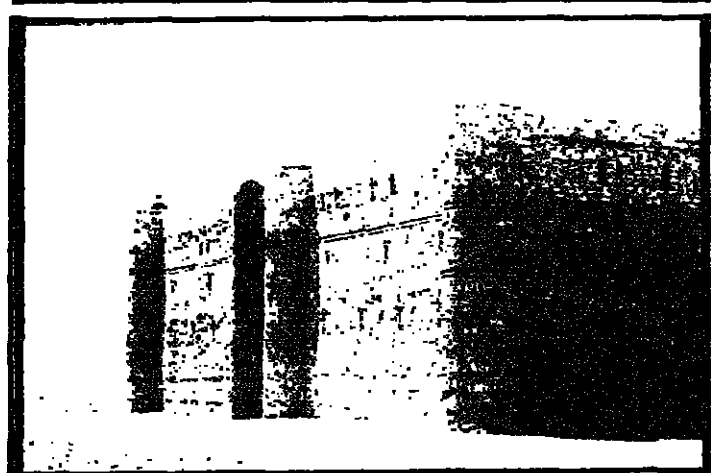
h- The government supports the formation of specialised councils in which farmers would take part to organise the process of production and marketing within the limits of laws and observed regulations. Execution measures on this will be taken within the process of reconsidering the institutional frameworks for organising the agricultural sector in accordance with the committee's recommendation.

i- Farmers' short-term and long-term debts have been rescheduled, and the treasury will bear the outstanding interest on these loans beginning 1986.

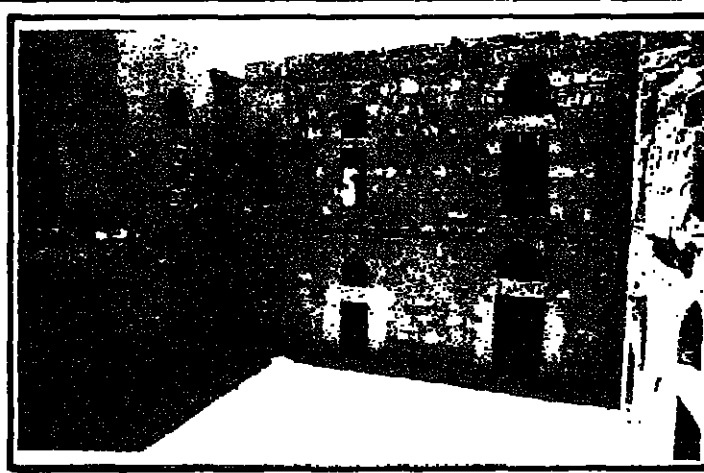
I had demanded that a comprehensive study be conducted on the status of agricultural loans at the agricultural lending institution and the cooperative society and the farmers union. The study has been prepared and has shown that the total loans to farmers stood at JD 38.1 million, out of which JD 9 million are seasonal loans and the rest (JD 29.1 million) are medium-term and long-term development loans.

The obtained information has shown that the three institutions have dealt with 678 debtors who are indebted to two institutions at the same time with JD 6.3 million of debts and that there are 68 other debtors who borrowed from the three institutions at the same time with a total debt of JD 607,000. The government will continue to study the subject with the aim of limiting the debts to one party and to unite the source

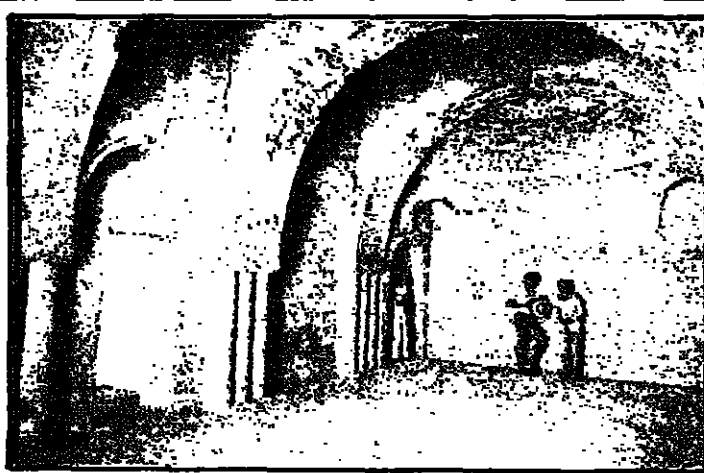
(Continued on page 7)



The south facade of Qasr Kharana, with its sole entrance at centre.



View of the internal courtyard and the surrounding rooms on two stories; the main entrance is at bottom-left. The small door in the corner leads into the staircase.



One of the well preserved rooms of the upper storey, showing Kharana's various decorative and architectural techniques which were strongly influenced by cultural forces from the east.



A close-up view of the exterior wall of the castle, showing ventilation slits, herringbone-style bands of decorative bricks, and the plaster that once covered the entire external surface of the walls.

Kharana: The best preserved Umayyad castle, the least understood

Text and Photos By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

The following article is the third in a series in which the writer explores the Umayyad desert castles and palaces in Jordan.

QASR KHARANA is probably the structure which gave rise to the misnomer "desert castles" — for at first glance it has all the looks of a fortified castle built for defensive purposes. It remains one of the best preserved, most dramatic but also most enigmatic of the Umayyad desert castles. It is easily accessible today alongside the Sahab-Azraq highway, 55 kilometres east of Amman. It lies on a gentle rise above Wadi Kharana, a tributary of the more important Wadi Sirhan, which was a major communication route in antiquity linking Syria and the Amman-Azraq region with the heartland of the Arabian Peninsula.

It is certainly the most imposing of the Umayyad desert cas-

tles, with its thick stone walls interrupted by rounded interval and corner towers, looking very much like a classic Roman frontier fortress. Though only 35 metres square, Qasr Kharana is all the more impressive because it stands two stories high, and its clearly delineated towers and main entrance exaggerate its height.

Like some other desert castles, it was never finished, as we know from several unvaulted rooms on the north side of the second floor, and other upper storey rooms which give onto balconies that were never built.

First examined by the American traveller Gray Hill in 1896 (who thought it was a Crusader fortress), Kharana was surveyed

and excavated in 1979 by the American scholar Stephan Uric. His findings caused him to question the two previously dominant assumptions that Kharana was either a castle specifically built for defensive purposes, or a caravanserai where camel caravans stopped on their journeys through the Arabian desert.

Though it looks like a military structure for its towers and high stone walls with "arrow slits", closer examination suggests otherwise. The solid towers could not have provided defensive stations manned by a resident garrison, and instead may have been designed to buttress the massive walls. The "arrow slits" in the walls are unlike typical archers' slits which flared out towards the interior to offer a wide field of fire (such as at Kerak, Shobak and Qalaa el-Raba/Ajlun castles); Kharana's slits are narrow, of a constant width, and too high off the floor to serve as arrow slits. They probably provided light and

ventilation, as visitors quickly appreciate within the cool but draught-free interior.

Kharana's exterior limestone blocks are decorated with a continuous band of diagonally placed bricks, giving a herringbone effect, with a double line across the towers and the entrance. Above the window over the main entrance are vertical slabs of stucco decoration.

Kharana's internal arrangement may also help explain its original purpose. The single entrance on the south side leads through a passage flanked by two large rooms with impressive arches; these have always been viewed as stables, but also may be storerooms.

The entrance, passage leads into a central courtyard which is surrounded by 61 rooms on two stories; most are arranged in suites of four or five communicating rooms around a large hall — a common arrangement in the early Islamic period. From the cour-

tyard, two low-angled, long staircases flanking the entrance lead up to the second storey and the roof. From the roof, on a clear day you can see the village of Muwaqqar — 35 kilometres to the west.

The second storey suites communicate with one another, while those of the ground floor only communicate via the central courtyard. Directly above the entrance passageway is a long hall with unique vaulting, decoration and fenestration.

Some second storey rooms retain their original decorative stonework, including architectural elements such as engaged colonettes, rosette friezes and squinches supporting semi-domes — decorative and construction techniques which reflect eastern influences, and which have caused some scholars to see Kharana as a Sassanian/Persian structure.

A painted inscription in one of the upstairs rooms is dated to

November 24, 710 A.D. and names a certain Abdul Malik bin Omar, thought to be a member of the entourage of Walid I on his way back from a trip to Mecca in 710 A.D. The inscriptions along with the almost exclusively Umayyad pottery that was excavated, suggest that Kharana's main period of occupation was during the Umayyad era.

Some early and late Byzantine pottery sherds and three building stones with fragmentary Greek inscriptions (one is visible about four metres to the right of the entrance, at ground level), suggest there may have been a Byzantine building on the site, but the excavations turned up no such evidence. If there was a pre-Umayyad building on the site, its traces were completely destroyed when the existing structure was built.

The excavations also clarified how Kharana's inhabitants secured their water supply — a vital concern in a semi-arid environ-

ment. There was a central cistern in the courtyard, plastered in white (as were all the internal walls of the building in the Umayyad period). The cistern probably stored rainwater collected on the roof, or gathered from "thamayil", or water-collecting wells sunk into the gravel bed of Wadi Kharana — a system that modern nomads and farmers in the area still use. An open, plastered stone drain running out of the courtyard to a point about 9.4 metres south of the qasr's entrance probably took wastewater or excess cistern water out of the building.

The modest water supply system weakens the argument that Kharana was a typical caravanserai, which would have required a far bigger water storage system to serve camel caravans often composed of hundreds of humans and beasts.

Uric believes Kharana was neither a defensive military fortress nor a caravanserai, noting

that it was near but not directly on a major trade route, and did not have a substantial water supply in pools or wells, such as at Azraq, 'Amra, Hallabat, Mushash or Muwaqqar.

He suggests it may have been designed to be used only occasionally as a political meeting place of sorts — where Umayyad era urban and tribal leaders could gather in a facility both relatively private and easily accessible. Such a development may have reflected changes in local political relationships when Marwan I came to power in 684 A.D.

Another unresolved question is Kharana's relationship — if any — to other Umayyad structures in the vicinity, at 'Amra, Mushash, Mushatta and Muwaqqar. Only future excavations and scholarship can clarify such issues — leaving Kharana, in Professor Oleg Grabar's words, as "probably the best preserved of the Umayyad desert castles, and the least understood."

es, GCC to discuss joint defence and security at summit in Riyadh

KUWAIT (R) — Concerns over a further escalation in the Iran-Iraq war are expected to dominate the agenda of Gulf Arab foreign ministers who meet in Riyadh on Monday to prepare for a regional summit.

Since their last summit in Abu Dhabi in November 1986, the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states have been increasingly sucked into the seven-year conflict on the side of Iraq.

Officials said the summit due to open on Dec. 26 would consider joint defence and security measures to protect the GCC states from a spillover of the war.

The heads of state would discuss support for U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, which demands a ceasefire, and a possible new approach to Tehran, the officials said.

The talks take place amid predictions of a major new offensive towards the southern Iraqi city of Basra by Iran, reported to have massed 370,000 troops on the southern war front.

Iraq said on Sunday it repulsed an Iranian thrust about 200 kilometres northeast of Basra after a 12-hour battle.

Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) formed the GCC in 1981.

In the past year, Iran has mined Gulf waters and stepped up attacks on Kuwaiti oil tankers, leading Kuwait to put half its tanker fleet under the American flag to qualify for U.S. navy protection.

A build-up by foreign navies in the Gulf has thrust the GCC states in the middle of superpower rivalry and clashes between the United States and Iran.

GCC Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs Saif Al Maskari told the Qatari News Agency (QNA) on Saturday the summit would discuss increased military cooperation and a security strategy approved by GCC interior ministers.

He said the talks would be extension of last month's Arab League summit in Amman which criticised Iran for attacking Kuwait with missiles and refusing to accept Resolution 598.

Kuwait has accused Iran of firing at least seven Silkworm missiles at its oil installations since September, one of which

shut down its main Gulf oil export terminal for six weeks.

The Arab summit also upbraided Iran for its role in clashes between Iranian pilgrims and Saudi police in the Holy City of Mecca last July in which more than 400 people died.

The clashes led to a sharp deterioration in relations between Riyadh and Tehran and prompted calls by some GCC states for a cut in diplomatic ties.

Mr. Maskari said earlier this month that UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid Abdullah received a positive reply when he contacted Iran with an offer of dialogue on behalf of the GCC.

But he said the initiative was thrown into doubt when Iran fired another Silkworm missile at Kuwait on Dec. 7.

The summit agenda will also include new steps to implement a 1981 joint economic agreement envisaging a common market. Mr. Maskari said legal and administrative obstacles to implementing the agreement would be discussed.

The GCC states have already abolished customs tariffs

His Majesty meets microlight pilot who made emergency landing in Karak

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Sunday received Brian Milton, a British pilot who was forced to make an emergency landing on a road in Karak on Saturday after his microlight plane developed engine trouble.

Mr. Milton, a former journalist and hang-gliding instructor from Bristol, is flying his tiny white-and-orange plane from London to Australia.

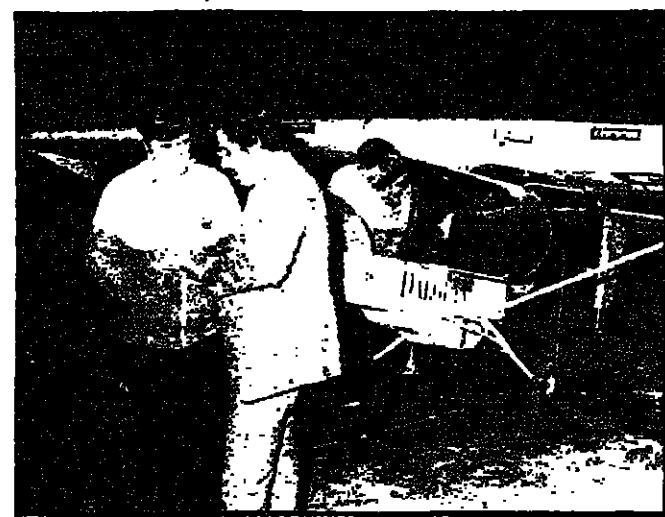
A spokesman for the Royal Palace told Reuters in Amman that Mr. Milton told King Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah about his bid to fly the 150-kilogramme Dalgery Flier from London to Darwin in 30 days.

Mr. Milton told Reuters his plane, which he flew to Amman on Sunday after repairs, had developed engine trouble an hour after leaving Aqaba on Saturday because of a refuelling snag.

The engines began sputtering and my heart was thumping," he said. "I spotted a road, circled lower and lower, and landed after waiting for a truck to pass."

He said his main worry was whether his 9.75-metre wingspan would clear telegraph poles lining the Karak highway.

Jordanian maintenance crew



Brian Milton, a British microlight pilot who was forced to make an emergency landing in Karak on Saturday, talks to a Jordan News Agency reporter after he flew the plane to Amman on Sunday (Petra photo)

and medical teams flew to his rescue in military helicopters from Amman on Saturday and repaired the aircraft.

Mr. Milton left London's New Docklands airport on Dec. 7 to fly to Australia in 30 days to commemorate a 1919 air race. But high winds flipped his \$24,570 plane over after a landing on the Greek island of Kythera, causing a six-day delay. He now aims to complete the trip in 30 flying days.

In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Milton described His Majesty the King as a "world-wide renowned statesman."

He said the King was well-known for "his distinguished leadership qualities and diplomacy."

He said he had a discussion with Prince Abdullah on plans of his flying trip. "I got all support from His Highness," Mr. Milton told Petra.

Rifai replies to Lower House recommendations

(Continued from page 6)

of lending and study the possibilities of rescheduling these loans.

The government intends, through existing laws, to protect farm ownership and to avoid its division.

J-A specialised poultry and slaughterhouse company has been established with the aim of forming an integrated network of slaughterhouses and freezing warehouses. This company has already started its operations and the government continues to give attention to this sector.

5. Services: The government has decided to stop high-cost housing projects and to concentrate instead on housing projects for low income citizens based on prior agreement with beneficiaries. The question of housing units would be reassessed within the existing laws and regulations.

As for deputies who spoke on other issues, I have heard all what they had to say and have given it what it deserved of attention and concern, and I have opened to their speeches my mind and heart, listening carefully and comprehending most of it. These speeches entered my mind and heart, except for opinions and expressions made by a small number of our brothers, that did not benefit or come up with anything new of value. They know that answering them is an easy matter for me, but I will skip them, out of my concern for your time, and because the positives have overwhelmed the negatives, and because of satisfaction in dealing with issues that reflect in real benefit for the citizen and country. This is why I promise the council to study with the ministries and concerned official institutions what was included in the speeches by the esteemed deputies, of clear demands and defined wishes which they see would achieve good in the interest of their constituencies or the Kingdom in general. I will do my best to do what can be done in respect to these demands and wishes. The government will contact the deputies directly to inform them of measures it will

adopt, so that they become partners in formulating decisions.

It gives me pleasure at the end of this speech to repeat the government's thanks and appreciation for the deputies, members of the esteemed financial committee, for their comments and recommendations, and for deputies who participated with their comments and opinions, thus contributing help to the government in carrying its great responsibilities in performing its message of good for the country and the citizen, in realisation of the principle of sharing responsibilities, and in implementation of the text of the constitution, and in emphasis of the strong cooperation ties between the legislative and executive branches. The government will continue to be concerned with the implementation of the decisions and recommendations by your council, on the road of strength, development and prosperity, under His Majesty King Hussein and his wise leadership that lights our path and guards our march.

Countdown on schedule for new Soviet first in space flight history

MOSCOW (Agencies) — A three-man Soviet cosmonaut team lifts off from a Central Asian launch site on Monday on a mission to a new first in space history — the start of permanent occupation of the Mir orbiting station.

Lieutenant-General Kerim Kerimov, in overall charge of the Soviet space programme, told the Communist Party newspaper Pravda on Sunday the countdown was proceeding on schedule.

He said pre-fuelling checks had been carried out in preparation for Monday's 1118 GMT lift-off, with the Soyuz TM-4 spacecraft, which will take the cosmonauts to Mir, standing ready at the Baikonur cosmodrome in Soviet Central Asia.

Gen. Kerimov heads the state commission which will choose one of two teams for the flight to Mir, where cosmonauts Yuri Romanenko and Alexander Alexandrov are preparing to return to earth after a record-breaking mission.

Romanenko, launched to Mir on Feb. 6, shattered the world space endurance record in October when he surpassed the 237-day longest previous stay in orbit.

The fresh crew will spend a week in space with Romanenko and Alexandrov. Then its research scientist will depart with the outgoing crew, leaving a two-man team aboard Mir.

The coming mission to Mir will

be the third since its launch in February 1986 as the heart of what was designed to become the world's first permanently-manned space laboratory.

A state commission was to decide Sunday which crew is to be sent aloft to replace the two cosmonauts, and blast off is scheduled at 2:18 p.m. Moscow time (1118 GMT) Monday. TASS said.

Meanwhile, Romanenko and Alexandrov have been engaged in scientific research and in getting ready for their return home, the Soviet news agency TASS said.

In the past several days, TASS said, they have conducted astrophysical and biomedical research, and have donned a pressurised suit called the "Chibis" apparently to prepare them for leaving the zero gravity of space.

A successful handover would signal the start of the station's permanent occupation because it would take place on board Mir. It will also mark a new first for the Soviet Union, which has outstripped the United States in space performance over the past two years.

With the U.S. manned space programme grounded since the explosion of the shuttle Challenger in January 1986, Moscow has continued sending cosmonauts to Mir. It has also moved into first place in space research and high-precision space photography.

Soviet scientist missing in India

NEW DELHI (R) — India has ordered its diplomatic missions in neighbouring countries to try to trace a Soviet scientist who disappeared from a tour group in Delhi on Friday, Indian news agencies said on Sunday.

Security forces were on full alert throughout India in the search for Babi Alexander, 25, a physicist, who went missing on a visit to the Karol Bagh market area north of the city centre.

Police said Soviet officials had waited 18 hours before reporting Alexander's disappearance and had not yet supplied a photograph of him. "Had it been reported in time, we could have done our best to locate the scientist," a police spokesman said.

The police said they were checking hotels, hospitals and the international airport, and Indian missions had been told to check arrivals from Delhi.

Dhaka frees more detainees in bid to foster dialogue

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh freed six more political detainees on Sunday in a continuing attempt to foster peace talks with the opposition, which is trying to topple President Hossain Mohammad Ershad.

The detainees were among some 5,000 arrested since the start last month of the concerted campaign to overthrow the president.

The release of the politicians coincided with a statement by the United States that it hoped the unrest, in which Bangladesh has lost millions of dollars in the past month, would be resolved through dialogue.

"The United States hopes that a dialogue which should include all political elements will lead to a peaceful and constitutional resolution to the current situation," a brief U.S. embassy statement said.

The official BSS news agency,

quoting a government announcement, said those released belonged to the fundamentalist Jammat-e-Islami, the pro-Moscow Communist Party and the rightwing Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

BSS gave no other details. But Home (Interior) Ministry officials told journalists it was part of the government plan to mollify the opposition which has posed the biggest ever challenge to General Ershad's six year rule.

The political dissidents arrested since the start of the anti-Ershad agitation on Nov. 10 included the two main opposition leaders, Sheikh Hasina and Begum Khaleda Zia.

Gen. Ershad also ordered a state of emergency, dissolved parliament and imposed restrictions on news reporting after opposition-led strikes shook the country's fragile economy.

Lower House's unanimous endorsement of budget hailed

(Continued from page 1)

members' observations and queries. He pointed out that there was lot of interaction and that "other deputies who were not committee members were able to participate in the discussions."

Thus, many issues were cleared during the financial panel's meetings and discussions with government officials," Mr. Jaabari said.

Deputies contacted by the Jordan Times have noted that the government was very responsive and that Mr. Rifai's detailed reply addressed all remarks and recommendations formulated by the committee.

According to Mr. Jaabari, the prime minister's speech has practically endorsed all of the committee's recommendations except

for one concerning funds allocated for the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

In his reply, Mr. Rifai stressed that the funds allocated for the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs were "not less than those allocated for the same ministry in 1987." The prime minister reviewed in detail the allocation of funds for the ministry and its activities including building of mosques and Islamic centres.

Following the prime minister's speech (which is reprinted in full on page 5) the deputies unanimously approved the budget and the government's reply to the committee's report.

In general, the committee's report had called on the government to curb spending, limit foreign borrowing, support national

industries and agriculture and to ease unemployment.

Mr. Rifai responded with pledges to continue the government's policy to combat unemployment, protect the infant industries, to support farmers and promote the marketing of agricultural products. He also said that the government had decided to use any installments from the over due Arab aid to repay the Kingdom's foreign debts and cover the budget deficit.

Deputies also noted that the representatives who either abstained or opposed last year's budget — including deputies Leith Sheiblat (Amman), Dr. Riyadh Al Nawaiseh (Karak) and Dr. Abdullah Al Akaileh (Tafleh) — had joined the committee and participated in all of

the discussions.

Deputy Fuad Faraj (Jerusalem) pointed out that for the first time members of the committee were also allowed to speak during the session to express their views in detail over the budget and other issues.

On the whole, the cooperation between the government and the Lower House was at "very good and high level," Mr. Jaabari said.

Parliament watchers and deputies could not be sure that the passage by acclamation of the 1988 budget was unprecedented in the history of parliamentary life in Jordan. According to Parliament Secretary General Hani Kheir, who is also a former deputy, it was the first time since 1963 that the House unanimously approved the government's

budget. "There is no doubt that it is a great accomplishment for Mr. Rifai's government," he said.

The chairman of the House's Financial Committee, Mr. Musa Abu Al Ragheb (Amman), said he could not remember exactly when the House last voted unanimously in favour of a budget but that the approval by acclamation reflected the deputies' confidence in the government's policies and economic objectives. "If it were not for the deputies' conviction and confidence in the government's fiscal policies there would not have been an approval by acclamation of the budget," he said.

Deputy Mufid Al Mubaslat (Nablus) said: "It is a great achievement for both the government and the Lower House of Parliament."

Israelis wound 7 more Arabs

(Continued from page 1)

The protests threatened to spread on Monday, when a one-day general strike was called by leaders of Israel's 750,000 Arabs in sympathy with Palestinians in the occupied territories.

About 500 Israeli Arabs demonstrated in the northern Galilee town of Umm Al Fahm Sunday. "We are one people," a leaflet said.

In Gaza, protesters set fire to an Israeli bus and stoned cars to enforce a strike

Barricades of burning tyres were set up south of Gaza City on the road leading south towards the Egyptian border.

Arab motorists were forced to clear away barricades made of burning tyres, cans, rocks, and other debris.

In Arab Jerusalem, all Arab shop owners closed their stores and schoolchildren stayed home in protest.

Police arrested 60 Palestinians in connection with Saturday's protests, Israel Radio reported. Some of the arrests were made at night, the radio said.

Groups of green-uniformed Israeli policemen carrying nightsticks and M-16 rifles patrolled three points along the street.

There is a very great effort inside the United Nations by some of Israel's enemies to define 'self-defence' by Israel as an act of aggression and never to condemn violence against Israel," she said on Israel TV.

In Bethlehem, Mayor Elias Freij said he was being pressured to cancel some official functions surrounding Christmas celebrations in the town (See page 2).

Seven Protestant, Roman Catholic and Orthodox Christian youth groups and lay leaders have urged that celebrations be limited to prayer and religious services as a protest of Israeli measures.

"The problem is Israeli authorities are shooting at children and women," said Mr. Freij, who predicted there would be far fewer tourists this year than the 50,000 in 1986.

World anger grows over Israeli actions

(Continued from page 1)

Syndicate announced that all Arab courts would stop work for five minutes Monday morning in support of the Palestinians and in protest of the Israeli acts.

The Foreign Ministry said the protest handed over to Mr. Sasson by a senior ministry official "expressed Egypt's protest to what has been done, and is being done by Israeli authorities, oppressive and brutal actions in the Gaza Strip against its Palestinian inhabitants."

"This is a flagrant violation of the rights of the Palestinian people and a continuation of these violations and actions will threaten the peace process in the Middle East," the protest read.

"Egypt asks that an end be put to these aggressive actions immediately, to stop the grave dangers that could threaten the region," the protest said.

The Soviet news agency TASS echoed the Egyptian statement, accusing Israel of carrying out mass repression in its occupied territories and urging Israel to agree to a Middle East peace conference.

A formal statement issued late Saturday by TASS spoke of "tens

of killed and hundreds of injured" in protests in the occupied Gaza Strip which erupted 11 days ago.

It said that the "crimes being perpetrated by the invaders" were a prelude to an attack against the Arab states.

"The Israeli military are making preparations which cannot be regarded otherwise than a preparation for a new aggressive attack against the Arabs," TASS said.

The TASS statement restated a Soviet call for a U.N.-sponsored international conference, including participation by all five members of the Security Council and the PLO, to solve the Middle East problem.

"The way to a just and lasting peace in the region lies through the convocation of an international conference..." it said, adding that an overwhelming majority of members backed such a meeting at the U.N. General Assembly.

"It is time the leading circles of Tel Aviv heeded this voice of reason," it said.

The statement said the protests coincided with the signing of a U.S.-Israeli "memorandum of understanding" in military cooperation which gave Israel a status

"equal to that of the USA's NATO allies. This cannot but encourage the adventurist policy of the Tel Aviv hawks."

Syria, lauding the Palestinian protests in the Israeli-occupied territories, urged all Arabs on Sunday to "join the revolution in Palestine."

"What was taken by force can only be retrieved by force," said a parliamentary statement published in Syrian newspapers.

In Vatican City, Arab ambassadors prayed in St. Peter's Square on Sunday to protest against Israel's handling of the protests in the occupied territories as Pope John Paul condemned the violence and said he felt close to people suffering there.

"The coming feast of holy Christmas brings alive our attachment to the land where Jesus, prince of peace and love, was born," the Pope said in his weekly address to thousands of pilgrims and tourists in the square.

"That land cannot continue being a theatre of violence, of confrontation and of injustice, with suffering for the population with whom I feel particularly close," he said.

Upper House endorses supplement to budget

(Continued from page 1)

of the Palestinian people have to be restored," said Mr. Nuseibeh.

Dr. Nuseibeh urged the international community to adopt a united stand in support of the Palestinian people's resistance and seek an immediate end to Israel's oppressive actions against the Arab people.

He said he was confident that His Majesty and the government would spare no effort to support the peoples' steadfastness.

Dr. Salah commended the waves of uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip against the Israeli authorities and said they "fill us with appreciation. These citizens are protesting Israel's iron-fist policy and are urging (the Jewish state) to withdraw from their land to leave the Palestinians decide their destiny themselves."

He said the actions of the Palestinians in defending their rights had drawn world-wide attention and condemnation of Israel.

In his address, Sen. Salah said: "What is happening in the occupied territories, on the Arab World's eastern gate (Iraq), and the civil strife in Lebanon is a link in a chain that aims at keeping the Arab Nation weak and segmented. Hence we have to support the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories with all means available to us."

A collective Arab stand towards the situation in the occupied territories is needed in light of the successful outcome of the extraordinary Arab summit where Arab solidarity and unanimity was demonstrated by Arab leaders regarding major issues of concern to the Arab World, the senator said.

Sunday's Senate session also ratified two loan agreements entered between the government and the Saudi Fund for Development and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Social and Economic Development. The first loan will be used for financing part of the Faculty of Sciences at the Jordan University of Science and Tech-

nology (JUST) and the second for funding part of phase two of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

The Senate also endorsed an amendment to the 1987 law governing the activities of the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS). According to Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sami Joudeh, the modifications to the JESORS law would allow the organisation to extend and diversify its services in the fields of economic, social and trade activities.

JESORS, set up in 1977, has been hailed by economists as one of the most successful enterprises working in the area of agricultural projects, dairies, fisheries and other animal wealth projects. It allows retired servicemen to work in projects related to strengthening national production and economy.

Though enjoying an independent financial and administrative status, JESORS was operating under the supervision of the prime minister. An amendment introduced to the law made the organisation under the supervision of the minister of defence.

The organisation's 10-member board, including the director general, are entrusted with designing JESORS' policies and programmes, entering loan agreements with local and foreign parties and preparing and approving its annual budget.

A suggestion submitted by Sen. Mohammad Odeh Al Qaraan to tackle a number of problems faced by Jordanian farmers was referred to the government.

Algiers hosts tripartite talks

(Continued from page 1)

mar Qadhafi in Tripoli on the eve of the Algiers meeting.

According to Algeria, the major stumbling block in the way of unity among the five remains the conflict in Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony ruled by Rabat, where Algerian-backed Polisario guerrillas have been fighting Morocco since 1976.

But after nearly 12 years of animosity, Algeria and Morocco are also taking steps towards settling their differences.

Last Thursday and Friday, senior Algerian and Moroccan officials met in Rabat to prepare a meeting of their foreign ministers, expected next month, designed to pave the way for the restoration of their diplomatic ties.

The official Algerian daily Al Moudjahid newspaper on Sunday hailed the treaty as a potential "melting pot for future peace, stability and prosperity."

Tomba extends overall World Cup skiing lead

KRANJSKA GORA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Alberto Tomba on Sunday won a men's slalom ahead of his Italian teammate Richard Pramotton to consolidate his overall lead in World Cup standings.

The fresh triumph, his fifth this season, gave Tomba 125 points overall, 34 more than Switzerland's ace Pirmin Zurbriggen.

Zurbriggen, the defending World Cup champion, placed a surprising fourth in a specialty that is not considered to be his favourite.

Tomba, still starting from second group with no. 16, clocked 1:46.35 minute to outrace Pramotton by 0.60 seconds and

Austria's Guenther Mader, in third place with 1:47.27.

"The course was exceptionally selective and difficult," said Tomba.

"However, this has been the best race so far in the season, since all the competitors pressed as hard as possible without tactics," said Tomba, who fell in a giant slalom Saturday to interrupt his streak of four consecutive victories.

The spill thwarted his attempt to equal a record of six straight victories set by Sweden's superstar Ingemar Stenmark in the 1977-78 cup season.

Tomba spent Saturday night celebrating his 21st birthday with his teammates in local discotheques.

"I feel like celebrating my birthday all over again tonight (Sunday), said the winner, flashing a broad grin.

The 23-year-old Pramotton, a giant slalom specialist, skied his best-ever slalom despite a too cautious first heat in which he lagged fifth.

Iraqi club to boycott soccer friendly in Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — Top Iraqi soccer club Al Rashid will cancel a friendly match against Kuwait's Al Qadisiya in protest at an alleged assault on Iraqi national team players by Kuwaiti police, football sources have said.

The sources at the Iraqi Football Association (IFA) said the Iraqi club would not travel to Kuwait for the match because of lack of security and in protest at "the aggression of Kuwaiti police on Iraqi players."

An Iraqi sports newspaper reported on Saturday that members of the national team were attacked by Kuwaiti police and fans on Friday during a qualifying match for the Seoul Olympics, which Kuwait won 2-1.

Al Baath Al Riyadhi, whose editor-in-chief is a son of President Saddam Hussein, said three players and the team coach were beaten up by police acting "under the pretext of protecting the referee."

Police intervened in the ill-tempered match when Iraqi players accused the referee, an Asian, of being biased in favour of Kuwait.

Napoli, Roma end year with feast of goals

ROME (R) — Diego Maradona helped unbeaten Napoli to a 4-1 win over a depleted Verona, while Massimo Agostini scored twice in Roma's 5-1 rout of Pescara in the last matches of 1987 in the Italian First Division on Sunday.

Argentine World Cup captain Maradona scored once but had a penalty saved 10 minutes from the finish.

However, Bruno Giordano sealed Napoli's success with his second goal of the match in the 90th minute, allowing the defending champions to end the year with a three-point lead at the top

of the table.

In the Milan Derby, where tight security was in place following last week's near tragic firework hooliganism, second-placed A.C. Milan beat Internazionale 1-0 thanks to a third minute own goal by Riccardo Ferri.

With Sampdoria holding Juventus to a 1-1 draw in fog-hit Turin, after goals from Antonio Cabrin and Sampdoria defender Pietro Vierchowid, the year ended with Sampdoria, Roma, Juventus and Internazionale unchanged in the next four places in the standings.

In Rome, Franco Tancredi was

back in goal, fully recovered from being hit by two fireworks last week, to watch his Roma teammate Massimo Agostini score in each half and Roberto Policiano get an 89th minute goal.

Roma's other strikes came from Giuseppe Giannini, and an own goal by Romano Galvani while trying to divert a Zbigniew Boniek pass.

In Naples, Maradona's men went onto attack against a Verona team missing seven key players — four of them, including Danish striker Preben Elkjaer, out through suspension and three injured.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Taiwan wins women's soccer tournament

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's Mulan squad beat the American California-EL Calino team 2-1 Sunday and won the 1987 Taipei International Women's Invitational Soccer Championship. Mulan's defender Wang Shio-Mien shot in a penalty kick in the 29th minute, and midfielder Lin Yu-Ying added another goal in the 68th minute. Midfielder Joy Biefeld scored for the Americans with a header in the 27th minute. In other matches Sunday, Bergisch Gladbach of West Germany finished in third place after beating the Australian national team 2-0, and New Zealand defeated Canada 1-0 for fourth place. Canada finished fifth and Australia sixth in final round competition.

W. German women win hockey event

BAD NEUENAU, West Germany (R) — Favourites West Germany overcame The Netherlands 10-8 in the final on Sunday to take the Women's European Indoor Hockey Championship for the fifth time in a row. The Germans, winners since 1975, were in front throughout the game, managing to hang on despite frequent attacks by the Dutch in the second period. Beate Demiger scored six goals for West Germany with Eva Hegener picking up another two. For The Netherlands, Lisanne Lejeune scored four times. West German trainer Wolfgang Stroeder said that the victory was some compensation for the team's disappointing fourth place in the European outdoor championship in London in September. England, beaten by the Dutch in the semifinals earlier in the day, defeated Ireland 3-0 to finish third.

Boxer charged with sexual assault

HALIFAX (AP) — Heavyweight boxer Trevor Berbick has been charged with sexually assaulting a teenage girl in Halifax more than two years ago, the Halifax News reported. The newspaper says the charge, dated between Aug. 23-28, 1985, was laid against the former world heavyweight champion in a Halifax court on Nov. 26. Court officers were closed Saturday. "I have no comment at this time," Berbick said from his home in Myra, Florida. "I have no reason to worry about it. I'm a boxer. I'm concerned about boxing. Talk to my lawyer." Berbick's lawyer, Castor Williams of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, could not be reached for comment.

IOC president content with S. Korean elections

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Juan Antonio Samaranch said on Sunday that last week's presidential elections in South Korea would contribute to the smooth running of the 1988 Seoul Games.

"The elections were a good thing. People in South Korea are happier now than during the demonstrations last summer."

Samaranch told a news conference during a visit to the Davis Cup tennis final between Sweden and India in Gothenburg.

"The Olympics are very important to all the people in South Korea," added Samaranch.

The IOC president said the return of tennis as an Olympic sport in Seoul after 64 years was expected to attract all the top players.

Wilander opposes doping tests

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) — Sweden's Mats Wilander has said that rumours of drug abuse on the professional tennis circuit were not true and that regular doping tests would only harm the reputation of world tennis.

"There are no doping cases in tennis so there is no reason to introduce tests," he told a news conference on Saturday after leading Sweden to an unassailable 3-0 lead against India in the Davis Cup final.

"Doping tests would unfairly stain the reputation of tennis because they would suggest suspicion, a lack of trust," said Wilander, ranked number three in the world.

But he added that if serious suspicions arose in the future, tests might become necessary.

Rumours of drug abuse among tennis professionals have prompted calls that tennis should join the rising number of sports which regularly test their elite for doping.

The debate intensified after the elevation of tennis to an Olympic sport, starting with next year's games in South Korea. Random doping tests are the practice at the Olympics.

Wilander said there was a 50 per cent chance that he would compete in Seoul.

The prospect of winning an Olympic medal does not excite me as much as, say, the Davis Cup or Wimbledon," he said. "It might take 15 or 20 years before the Olympic becomes a big thing in tennis."

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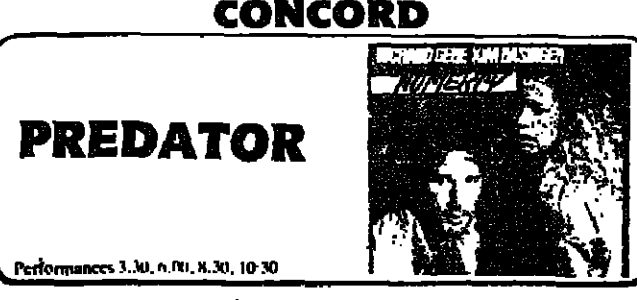
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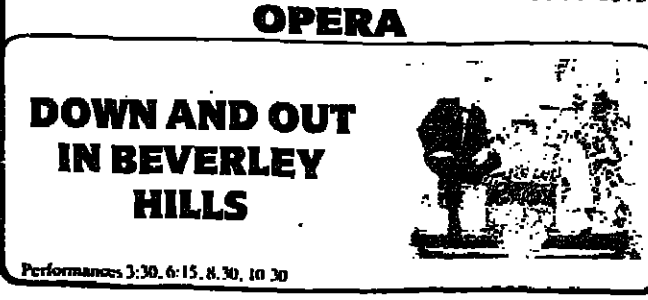
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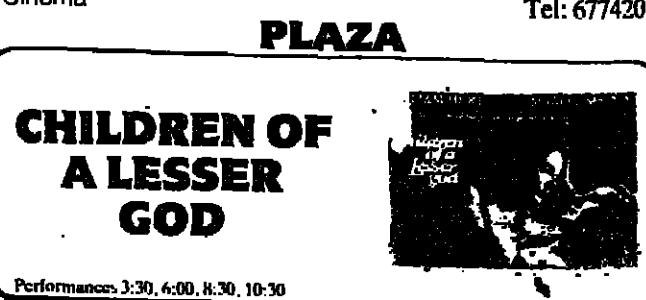
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Texaco to sell assets to pay largest settlement in history

NEW YORK (R) — Texaco expects to sell assets to raise the \$5.5 billion needed to settle its lawsuit with Pennzoil and emerge from bankruptcy, Chairman Alfred Deane has said.

"We will have to finance that," Mr. Deane told Reuters in a telephone interview on Saturday. "We expect to be selling some assets."

The two companies on Saturday signed an accord under which Texaco would pay Pennzoil \$3 billion to settle their \$10.3 billion dispute over Getty Oil Co.

Texaco, the third largest oil company in the United States, would have to pay an additional \$2.5 billion to its creditors to bring the company out of bankruptcy.

Lawyers said the fact, believed the largest financial settlement in history, came after marathon talks among the parties involved in the four-year-long dispute.

Texaco filed for protection under Chapter XI of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code last April to forestall enforcement of the \$10.3 billion judgment Pennzoil was awarded in 1985.

A Texas civil court jury had found that Texaco interfered with an agreement Pennzoil had to buy Getty Oil Co. when it swooped in and bought Getty itself for \$10 billion.

Texaco filed for bankruptcy after a court ruled it had to post a bond equal to the size of the judgment.

Both companies said they expected on Monday to file the settlement plan in bankruptcy court, where it is subject to approval by the court and Texaco's shareholders.

"This removes the uncertainties of the past," Mr. Deane said of the accord. "Now we can look forward to the things Texaco can really do as one of the great companies in the industry."

The company expects to undertake a wide-ranging financial restructuring, including the sale of assets and redemption of high-priced debt, after it leaves bankruptcy, Mr. Deane said.

Wall Street calls Boesky sentence a fair bargain

NEW YORK (R) — Even in defeat, financier Ivan Boesky drove a good bargain, Wall Street brokers have said.

They said justice had been served by Boesky's sentence of three years in jail for his part in Wall Street's biggest insider trading scandal, but added the sentence would have been stiffer had he not cooperated with the government.

"Boesky went out of his way to inform," said Ms. Matti Prima, an investment banker at Henry Ansbacher Inc. "Whatever he bargained for, he bargained for effectively. He's an even better deal maker than we realised."

"Justice has been served," said Mr. Al Goldman, a broker at A.G. Edwards and Sons in St. Louis. "The prison term makes a statement that even the high and mighty are not above the law, and Boesky was the highest and the mightiest."

"The sentence strikes the right chord," said Mr. Monte Gordon, research director at Dreyfus Corp. "It implies that had Boesky not cooperated with the government, his term could have been longer. But considering the extensive cooperation he is reported to have given, it's reasonable."

Boesky had faced a maximum penalty of five years in jail and a \$350,000 fine for conspiring to make false statements to the government.

But federal judge Morris Lasker did not fine Boesky, who paid \$100 million in November 1986 to settle civil insider trading charges brought by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

"I'm a great believer that white-collar crime is as vicious, venal and reprehensible as crimes of violence and therefore I feel

Study finds U.S. enjoying top tank in business ethics

NEW YORK (AP) — A survey released last week by one of the largest U.S. accounting firms said the United States has the world's highest standard of business ethics despite some widely publicised lapses.

Touche Ross mailed a four-page questionnaire in late September to 8,180 prominent American professional people including corporate executives of companies with \$500 million in annual sales, business school deans, accountants, attorneys, bankers, clergy, engineers, law-makers and teachers.

It asked them to name and rank the five countries that have the highest standards of business ethics. The respondents chose the United States, England, Canada, Switzerland and West Germany, in that order.

Among other findings, survey respondents said the industries with the best ethical standards are commercial banking, utilities, and pharmaceutical makers. The survey shows the American mid-west the most ethical region and the east the least and that men are no less ethical than women.

As of late October when the results were compiled, the accounting firm had received 1,107 questionnaires back, which spokeswoman Amy Levin called a high response rate.

Although surveys on corporate ethics have proliferated in reaction to the Wall Street insider trading scandal and other business embarrassments, Ms. Levin said the Touche Ross survey was more comprehensive and authoritative than most.

"I think a lot of other surveys go to managers or people not so high up," she said. "As an accounting firm, we thought we'd have a kind of objective perspective."

She said it was coincidental that the survey was released one day before Ivan F. Boesky, a stock speculator at the centre of the insider trading scandal, was to be sentenced for conspiracy to lie to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"Though respondents believe almost unanimously that the business community is troubled by ethical problems, they are very far from seeing a wholesale breakdown in American business ethics today," a synopsis of the survey said.

Fifteen per cent believe U.S. business is highly ethical. 81 per cent believe it is reasonably ethical and only three per cent regard it as unethical, the survey showed.

Sixty-two per cent of respondents agreed with the statement that "compared to 100 years ago, the age of the robber barons, business ethics are definitely better today."

Mozambique expects economic growth to rise by 6% in 1988

MAPUTO (R) — Mozambique, wracked by prolonged civil war but now emerging from economic collapse with aid of an International Monetary Fund (IMF) recovery plan, says it will achieve six per cent growth next year.

Prime Minister Mario Machungo said on Friday growth was four or five per cent in 1987 — higher than forecast.

Mr. Machungo told parliament the first year of Mozambique's three-year recovery programme had been a success but said the country's problems were far from resolved.

"When you compare our exports of \$105 million with our imports of \$752 million, the conclusion we can draw is that our economy is in very bad shape," he said in his 1988 budget speech.

Mozambique, which joined the IMF in 1984, agreed in May to sweeping changes in economic policy, including two massive devaluations, a cut in the budget deficit, tight controls on credit and subsidies and stiff price rises.

The aim was to reverse a catastrophic economic slide in which gross national product fell by 11 per cent a year from 1981 to 1985.

The plan opened the way for a 20-year rescheduling of \$800 million of Mozambique's debts by the Paris Club and to increased aid commitments by donor nations to cover essential imports.

IMF studies estimate that Mozambique will continue to need external aid of around \$1 billion a year until well into the 1990s.

Exports of cotton, sugar, cashews, tea and other commodities are running at less than half the level of the early 1980s and are unlikely to recover fully until an 11-year war waged by right-wing rebels is ended.

The IMF estimates that Mozambique's debt repayments are more than double its earnings from exports and services. By 1991 the debt service ratio will fall slightly but will still be 135 per cent.

Mr. Machungo said industrial output went up 18 per cent this year while agriculture stagnated and transport fell by eight per cent.

He blamed the problems on disruption by anti-government rebels who have paralysed large areas of the countryside, cut rail links and frequently attacked road convoys.

Parliament on Saturday approved two bills giving amnesty to rebels who lay down their arms and repent between now and the end of next year.

OPEC expects crucial weeks ahead

LONDON (R) — OPEC is at a crossroads. The next few weeks will determine whether it can convince a sceptical world oil market that it can keep charging \$18 for a barrel of oil, senior OPEC sources say.

The sources say they believe that the group has the cohesion to stick to the letter of a makeshift price and production pact hammered out in Vienna last week to maintain its \$18 reference price for the first half of next year.

But oil traders say that unless the group ends the price discounting and overproduction that have eroded the group's control of the market, prices could tumble to less than \$12 a barrel in a rerun of the 1985-86 market collapse.

"We are all serious," one senior OPEC source said. "But let's see how member states behave. The next three weeks will be crucial."

He and other senior figures in the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) fear that the group may have to call an emergency meeting in February or March if prices continue the tail-spin that followed the Vienna accord.

The next scheduled meeting is in June.

Free market prices plunged under \$15 a barrel last week because traders think the group will pump well over the agreed 15.06 million barrels per day (b/d) ceiling, and some might offer discounts from the official benchmark price.

They later recovered, but the market is still nervous and very wary about the group's political will because of in-fighting between Iran, which wants to raise prices to \$20, and Gulf states which back Tehran's Gulf war foe Iraq.

Iraq refused to be party to the Vienna pact and has rejected every quota offered it since mid-1986, when Iran and Saudi Arabia forged a new output agreement to drain the surplus from world oil markets and boost prices.

Iraq demands a quota equal to Iran's 3.69 million b/d and is pumping close to 2.5 million b/d, way above the 1.54 million b/d quota it rejects. This kind of

disregard for quotas led to the 1985-86 oil price collapse.

OPEC sources say the root of OPEC's problems is the Iran-Iraq war, with Gulf states seeking to isolate Iran and minimise its influence in the organisation.

By their account, Gulf states sought at the Vienna meeting to give Iraq the quota parity it demanded and reach a 12-state agreement, with Iran refusing to sign.

They reasoned that because Iran needs cash to finance its war with Iraq, it would not flood the market with crude and depress prices, even if it could, given Iraqi attacks on Iranian oil installations.

But they failed. OPEC's moderate bloc, which includes members from Latin America, Asia and Africa, rejected Iraq's attempt to effectively accord itself the quota it wanted, the OPEC sources say.

This bloc is now angry at Gulf states and is waiting to see whether they will adhere to their quotas and the OPEC-mandated price or will continue to behave in the words of one senior source, as another organisation within OPEC.

Some OPEC figures fear that Gulf states might be more concerned about isolating Iran than defending the oil price.

They reason that Gulf states have the biggest oil reserves and healthiest economies in OPEC and could afford to ride out a price collapse if it meant emptying Iran's war chest.

Several Gulf states, notably the United Arab Emirates, have produced massively above quota, undermining the united front the group says it wants to present to the world oil market.

To counter this, OPEC President Rilwani Lukman has proposed that a Dutch company be used to monitor output, instead of relying on the often inaccurate output figures member states send to the Vienna headquarters.

Senior OPEC sources say all member states have agreed to this, but whether or not the firm is allowed to carry out its work in the Gulf remains to be seen.

Independent verification that OPEC was producing at its ceiling would give prices a sharp boost, but any refusal by a member state to allow the auditors to carry out their work would be disastrous, OPEC sources say.

Survey shows wide variation in world food prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — American consumers often get food bargains that aren't available overseas, but an Agriculture Department survey shows it pays to shop around.

For example, a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) survey showed a "market basket" of food costing \$49.74 in Washington, D.C., was \$122.90 in Tokyo. But the same items cost only \$24.30 in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil.

Of grocery prices checked by USDA attaches and counsellors in 16 world capitals, eight of the foreign grocery baskets cost more than in Washington, while seven cost less.

In addition to Tokyo, the capitals where groceries cost more, included: Bern, Switzerland, \$97.91; Bonn, West Germany, \$54.59; London, England, \$56.31; Madrid, Spain, \$55.73; Paris, France, \$58.05; Rome, Italy, \$60.92; and Stockholm, Sweden, \$97.12.

Groceries cost less in Brasilia and in Buenos Aires, Argentina, \$28.71; Canberra, Australia,

\$34.39; Mexico City, \$27.92; Ottawa, Canada, \$47.01; Pretoria, South Africa, \$35.90; Seoul, South Korea, \$47.27.

The survey is informally performed by the department's Foreign Agricultural Service in May and November each year. It is not claimed to be statistically representative of food prices in the countries.

"It is important to keep in mind when comparing these prices that they reflect purchases more typical of U.S. consumers rather than those of other capitals," the agency said in its report.

The costs of individual food items were derived by averaging retail prices for each item taken from randomly sampled supermarkets within each capital's metropolitan area, the report said.

Prices were expressed in U.S. dollars converted at current exchange rates.

The agency reported prices of items sold by weight in terms of dollars per kilogramme, which is about 2.2 pounds.

Brazilians react strongly to resignation of finance minister

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Politicians, businessmen and labour leaders reacted strongly Saturday to the resignation of finance minister, Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, saying the move threatens to deepen political and economic problems.

It was the third change of a finance minister since President Jose Sarney took office in April 1985 as Brazil's first civilian leader since a 1964 military coup.

"Creditors are not willing to finance a country without government," said Rio's Jornal Do Brasil, quoting an unidentified banking source in New York.

Also leaving the government are central bank president Fernando Millet and foreign debt negotiator Fernando Bracher, who was in New York meeting with private banks.

Mr. Francisco Dornelles and Mr. Dilson Funaro preceded Mr. Bresser Pereira as finance ministers. President Sarney's cabinet

has had 27 changes.

"This is disastrous. We just began interpreting the economic thinking of the minister and everything changes," said Mr. Mario Amato, president of the powerful Federation of Industries of Sao Paulo.

Mr. Gilmar Carneiro, director of the Central Workers Union, a leftist group that claims to represent some 17 million of Brazil's 54 million workers, said Mr. Bresser's resignation "is another step to chaos."

Mr. Antonio De Padua Rocha Diniz, president of the Brazilian Federation of Bank Associations, said Mr. Bresser Pereira was "just a victim of the political disorder reigning in the country."

Mr. Bresser Pereira attributed his resignation to lack of political support.

To fight the problems of this country you have to maintain a firm stand, and this is impossible with a weak government," he said Saturday, speaking with reporters in Sao Paulo.

Earlier in Brasilia, the capital, he spoke of an "ethical" dispute with President Sarney over tax reform.

He said President Sarney refused to approve an economic plan that would impose heavy taxes on capital earnings, a measure that would mainly affect the upper-middle and upper classes, small segments of Brazil's population of 141 million.

Mr. Bresser Pereira's plan would have meant closing several unprofitable governmental companies and firing thousands of public servants.

He also tried to limit public spending estimated at six per cent of Brazil's \$300 billion annual gross national product.

During his seven-month tenure, Mr. Bresser Pereira could not stop Brazil's runaway inflation, which returned to a rate of 300 per cent.

The resignation means new problems for President Sarney, already on shaky ground with the Brazilian Democratic Movement Party, the majority in the congress.

Mr. Bresser Pereira was the party choice to replace Mr. Funaro.

"The new minister is Sarney's problem. We won't interfere, but we also are putting more distance between us and the president," said Mr. Ulysses Guimarães, the party's president and a leading congressman.

Brazilian media said the government's lack of credibility could endanger an agreement reached with foreign banks on repayment of \$4.5 billion in interest due this year on Brazil's external debt of \$112 billion.

Mr. Mailson Ferreira De Nobrega, the second in command at the finance ministry, is to head the post until a new minister is named. He said on Friday that the resignation would not affect the accord.

THE Daily Crossword by J. & P. Barnett

ACROSS

- 1 Bird
- 6 Mark for removal
- 10 "Amore"
- 13 Jeweled ornament
- 14 — orange
- 15 Oriental drama
- 16 Like a ghost
- 18 Books expert
- 19 Kernel
- 20 Improve
- 21 Empty space
- 22 Many years
- 24 Holding of lands
- 26 Severe trial
- 31 Plug
- 32 Critique
- 33 Greeting word
- 35 Golf stroke
- 37 Homology
- 39 Necessary: abbr.
- 40 Perceived
- 42 Shoshonean people
- 43 Reliance
- 45 Wedding announcement word
- 46 Goes quickly
- 48 Cutting instruments
- 50 Lines bend
- 53 Circulated
- 54 Cusp
- 55 Persian wheel
- 58 Bones
- 62 Mellow
- 63 Out of keeping
- 65 Daystar
- 66 Pottery community
- 67 Jibe
- 68 Encountered
- 69 Solar disk
- 70 Gr. letter

DOWN

- 1 Cornelia
- 2 Skimmer
- 3 Tasting
- 4 Lessened by
- 5 Sailor
- 6 Confront
- 7 Happening
- 8 Sluggish
- 9 Pipe bend
- 10 Changeable
- 11 Theme
- 12 Disreputable
- 14 — de guerre
- 17 Jury
- 21 Non-specific
- 23 Marine mammals
- 25 Pottery community
- 26 Peak in the Philippines
- 27 Money animal
- 28 Disjointed
- 29 Glossily
- 30 Heat measure
- 34 — regia
- 36 Corner
- 38 Of bees
- 41 — Plains
- 44 Rawboned animal
- 47 Braided cord
- 49 Fully
- 50 Gorge
- 51 Swamp
- 52 Plinth
- 56 Certain equine
- 57 Pasada
- 59 Angry
- 60 Fat
- 61 Needing guidance
- 63 — Van-kee
- 64 Informer

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

FACTS: CLEVER, ADIAT, HOMAGE, SHORT, ABOLISH, CENTER, STRIATION, TRANS, DICTIC, KERO, ALE, A, PINEER, MEMIL, ALE, PALMER, SOLACE, BREEZES, PINAULES, RASIER, PERMY, ARCED, CORGAS, STIA, SEAR, SLIT, ESPER, NEP, CARATE, DUCAL, ASTRATE, TIRENE, CRASIE, ESKER

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



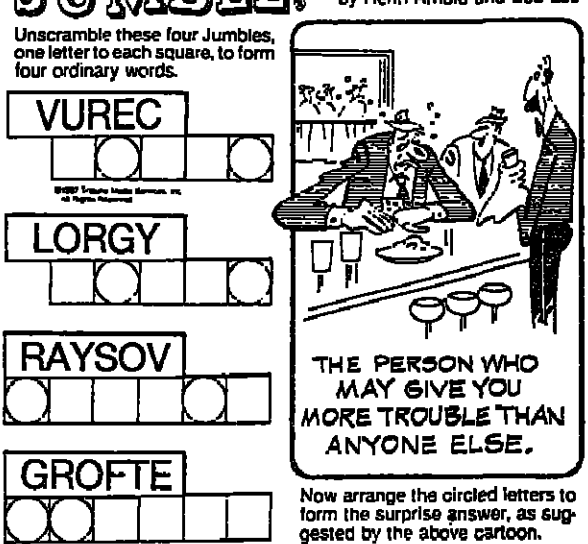
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Horoscope not received

Seoul opposition in shambles ahead of general elections

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's fragmented opposition is in a shambles after its defeat in last week's presidential election while the ruling party is already preparing for general elections next year, political analysts say.

"We want to start negotiations on revising parliamentary election laws, even next week, but the problem is that the opposition is not prepared for anything constructive yet," an official of the Democratic Justice Party (DJP) told reporters on Sunday.

The opposition, led by unsuccessful presidential candidates Kim Young-Sam and Kim Dae-Jung, has brushed aside post-election overtures from the government party and vowed to topple its chief, Mr. Roh Tae-Woo, as president-elect.

Both Kims and dissidents accuse Mr. Roh of stealing the election through nationwide polling, a charge denied by the ruling camp.

While still suffering from a seemingly irrevocable rupture between the two Kims, the opposition rejected calls from Mr. Roh, President Chun Doo Hwan's protégé, to meet him as soon as possible to discuss democratic reform and "national reconciliation."

Opposition forces, demanding the nullification of the election, pledged to thwart the handover of power next February when Mr. Chun steps down at the end of a

seven-year mandate given him by a small Electoral College.

Wednesday's election was South Korea's first direct, open presidential vote for 16 years.

The two Kims have come under increasing fire from the media and former supporters for failing to settle on a single candidate against a strong government contender.

If they had agreed, critics note, an opposition victory would have been a foregone conclusion with its call for an end to what it says is military rule.

Young mavericks in the opposition have already started a campaign against the two Kims, urging them to relinquish their leadership.

About a dozen members of parliament, who previously belonged to both Kims' factions, accuse their former bosses of destroying the opposition through personal ambition.

They have pledged to build their group into a sizable force for "new generation politics."

"But the dilemma is that there are no viable would-be new leaders in the opposition," said representative Park Chan-Jong, a lead-

er of the anti-Kims campaign.

Opposition parties also could not easily afford a leadership shakeup a few months before parliamentary elections, Mr. Park said in a telephone interview.

The elections are scheduled for between February and April under a bipartisan agreement last year.

"The opposition should work very hard and fast if they want to repeat their successes of the 1985 general elections," political analyst and Seoul University Professor Kim Sang-Kook said.

In 1985, Kim Dae-Jung and Kim Young-Sam collaborated and stunned the government when their hurriedly-formed party emerged as the main parliamentary opposition.

"Now there is no end in sight to a continuing split between the two Kims. They may suffer another humiliation in the coming elections," Professor Kim said.

Mr. Roh's party wants to open a newly-elected parliament at about the same time that his administration is inaugurated.

The opposition, apparently needing more time to organize, wants elections in April. An opposition parliamentary majority would limit the power of the Roh administration.

The country's new constitution, ratified overwhelmingly by a

national referendum in October, has cut the sweeping emergency powers enjoyed by the president and increased the authority of parliament, including the right to supervise and investigate the administration's execution of state affairs.

In Washington, President Ronald Reagan said Saturday he has congratulated Mr. Roh on his victory and urged the opposition to work with him toward national reconciliation.

"South Korea has taken a great stride toward full democracy. For the first time in 16 years, they voted in a direct election for their president," Mr. Reagan said in his weekly radio address.

"Ninety per cent of the country turned out to show its commitment for the democratic process."

"The most important victory is for democracy," he said. "As Americans know, and as Koreans are finding out, elections have losers as well as winners. The essence of democracy is the willingness to accept the results and perhaps to try again at the next election."

"I particularly welcome Mr. Roh's calls for reconciliation as he undertakes to form a government with broad national support," Mr. Reagan added. "We look forward to continuing cooperation in security and trade and competing in next September's Olympics in Seoul."

Kampala accuses Kenya of harassing Ugandans

LUSAKA (R) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda sought on Sunday to defuse a bitter border dispute between Uganda and Kenya as the Ugandan government accused its neighbour of harassing its nationals.

Mr. Kaunda, chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), met Ugandan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mukiibi in Lusaka after armed clashes between Kenyan and Ugandan security forces at their border last week led to the frontier being closed.

Uganda said two of its soldiers and 10 civilians were killed during the three-day confrontation, but Kenya said up to 30 Ugandan troops died. No fatalities were reported on the Kenyan side.

As the Lusaka talks got underway, the Ugandan government,

in a statement read out on state radio, said Kenya was harassing and expelling its diplomats and businessmen.

Last Friday, Kenya expelled Uganda's high commissioner and his deputy, accusing them of making undiplomatic statements.

The Ugandan statement said the two diplomats, Charles Katungi and Samson Bigombe, had been arrested, searched and harassed before being expelled.

It said private Ugandan businessmen and officials of the state-owned coffee and cotton marketing boards normally based in the Kenyan port of Mombasa had been ordered to leave the country.

Offices of the two marketing boards had been broken into, ransacked and looted by Kenyan Security Forces, it added.

Soviets blast nuclear device

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Sunday set off an underground nuclear explosion at the Semipalatinsk test range on the steppes of Central Asia, the Soviet News Agency (TASS) reported.

The blast, which TASS said had a yield of up to 20 kilotons, was at least the 21st Soviet test explosion this year, and the second within a week.

TASS said the latest test blast, at 6 a.m. Moscow time (0300 GMT) was conducted "to check the results of research in the field of nuclear explosion physics." It did not elaborate.

Last Sunday, TASS reported a

test blast at Semipalatinsk with a yield of between 20 and 150 kilotons, which it said was conducted to improve Soviet military equipment.

The Soviet Union ended a unilateral testing moratorium on Feb. 28. It had observed a test freeze for 19 months prior to that blast and had made repeated calls on the United States to join in the moratorium as a step to disarmament.

The two nations have embarked on negotiations in Geneva to end nuclear testing, but so far have not come to any agreement.

Thatcher, Gorbachev chosen U.K.'s most admired people

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev are the woman and man Britons admire most in the world, according to a current popularity poll.

Mrs. Thatcher, 62, the Conservative Party leader who will become Britain's longest serving prime minister in January, beat crusader for the poor, Mother Theresa, for first place.

Britain's Queen Elizabeth was voted third and her daughter Princess Anne was fourth, according to the Gallup poll published by the Sunday Telegraph newspaper.

The poll, conducted between Nov. 30 and Dec. 8, asked 966 people throughout Britain which

men, women and sports people they most admired.

Irish pop star Bob Geldof, whose Band Aid charity concerts raised millions of pounds sterling for the starving in Ethiopia, was the second most admired man after Mr. Gorbachev.

Church of England envoy Terry Waite, who has been missing in Lebanon for 11 months was third, followed by the heir to the British throne, Prince Charles and Pope John Paul II.

British snooker champion Steve Davis and motor racing driver Nigel Mansell were the two most admired sportsmen and javelin thrower Fatima Whitbread was the most admired sports-woman.

India reportedly to buy Soviet nuclear reactors

NEW DELHI (R) — India plans to buy at least three enriched uranium-fuelled nuclear reactors from the Soviet Union and open them to international inspection, the Sunday Mail reported.

The newspaper, which did not quote sources for the report, said the decision marked a departure from India's natural uranium or heavy water-based nuclear power programme.

India would have to allow foreign inspection of Soviet-built plants because Moscow has signed the London agreement which seeks to ensure that enriched uranium, an ingredient of atomic bombs, is not misused, the

newspaper said. Indian officials could not be reached for comment.

India, which exploded what it called a peaceful nuclear device in 1974, has not signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT), which requires international inspection of nuclear plants.

India has accused neighbouring Pakistan of having a nuclear weapons programme, a charge denied by Islamabad.

The Sunday Mail said Delhi would buy three 440-megawatt reactors and take an option on another six. It gave no details of cost or delivery dates.

Denmark to probe reports of U.S. H. bomb in Greenland

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The government will order an inquiry into a report that hydrogen bombs from the crash of a U.S. Air Force plane 20 years ago lie on the seabed off the coast of Greenland, media reports said Saturday.

"We have already started an investigation and contacted U.S. authorities. We will go all the way and talk to everybody who had anything to do with the case at the time," Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen was quoted as saying by the Copenhagen daily Berlingske Tidende.

He added that he found it unlikely that there would still be unexploded hydrogen bombs on the seabed off the Arctic island after the accident in January 1968, when a U.S. B-52 strategic bomber with four bombs crashed south of Thule in north western Greenland.

Two Greenland members of the Danish parliament called for an investigation of the case earlier this week following a report by Danish television showing purported underwater photographs of hydrogen bombs in the sea near the U.S. Thule Air Base.

Philippine military vows more attacks on pirates

MANILA (R) — Soldiers dropped leaflets over islands in southern Philippines on Sunday urging Muslim pirates to surrender after killing 20 of them in three days of air, sea and ground assault, the military said.

Southern Commander Maj.-Gen. Cesar Tapia said three soldiers were killed and two paramilitary troops were wounded in a fierce battle on Friday with about 50 bandits believed linked to Muslim secessionists.

In Manila, Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos said the country would become stable by 1988, citing government victories against military coup plotters and Communists during 1987.

In central and southern Philippines, gunmen killed two mayoral candidates in separate incidents on Friday, adding to the political violence that has marred the campaign for the Jan. 18 local government elections.

The killings of the two candidates in Negros Oriental and Lanao Del Sur provinces brought to 11 the number of candidates killed in the 20-day-old campaign.

Dole has no qualms if wife ran with Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole said on Saturday he would not mind if his wife ran on a presidential ticket with Vice President George Bush, if his chief rival won his party's nomination.

"I'd be for it," the Senate Republican leader told an interviewer on Cable News Network's when asked for his reaction if Mr. Bush asked Elizabeth Dole to run with him.

Sen. Dole, a Kansas Republican, has often joked about a "Dole and Dole" ticket if he wins the Republican presidential nomination. His wife quit as transportation secretary in the Reagan administration to help her husband in his campaign.

In another development, a Newsweek magazine poll showed Americans are divided on whether former Senator Gary Hart was wise to rejoin the Democratic presidential race but 70 per cent say his acquaintance with a model would be an important factor in deciding to vote for him.

Forty-nine per cent of the 707 Americans surveyed on Thursday and Friday think Hart's comeback is courageous while 41 per cent consider it unwise, the poll showed.

Mr. Hart re-entered the race for next year's presidential elections on Tuesday.

Gen. Tapia, in a telephone interview from Zamboanga, said the military would resume bombardment of pirates' hideouts in a cluster of islands near that southern city, 875 kilometres south of Manila, if the pirates did not surrender on Sunday.

"We dropped leaflets that will be respected as safe conduct passes to the people and we are telling them that they sling their guns on their backs without the magazines," Gen. Tapia said.

"I hope the armed group gives permission to innocent people to get out," Gen. Tapia said, "if they don't, we will assume that there are no civilians in the area and we will attack."

Pinochet: Gorbachev is fooling the world

LONDON (R) — Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is fooling the whole world and subversion and terrorism in Chile are traceable to Moscow, Chilean President Augusto Pinochet said in a rare interview.

The Sunday Telegraph interview with the 72-year-old army general was billed as the first he has given a British journalist for 10 years.

"The evil is managed by Moscow," the Telegraph reported Gen. Pinochet as saying.

"Gorbachev is making a fool out of everybody — in the whole world he is as Communist as Stalin and Lenin were."

Gen. Pinochet toppled the elected Marxist government of Salvador Allende in September 1973. He plans for military rule to be replaced by a form of democracy in 1989 when Chileans will vote on a presidential candidate nominated by military chiefs.

Asked whether the Chilean elections would be accompanied by terrorism, he said that Moscow would issue orders to "cut

terrorism, for tactical purposes so as not to frighten people."

The Telegraph said Gen. Pinochet made clear he would do everything in his power to prevent a return of socialism in Chile, but he thought "a long time will be necessary before Democrats realise they are being infiltrated from the extreme left."

Gen. Pinochet, whose government has been ostracised by many others because of persistent allegations of human rights abuses, said it was "a problem of time to get over the torture image."

Various Western public relations companies had offered to improve the Chilean image, "but I refused I would rather spend the pesos on the welfare of the Chileans."

He said "there has not been torture" in Chile under his rule, and that the government would in future, "reject every harsh measure."

The Chilean leader, whose free-market economic policies have won praise from the international financial community, said he agreed with the radical economic policies of British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"It is comforting to know that our successes are being repeated in other countries," he said.

Meanwhile Adm. Jose Toribio Merino, commander in chief of the navy and a member of the ruling military junta, said he could teach U.S. President Ronald Reagan a lesson on how to handle a democratic election.

Adm. Merino made his comments Friday to reporters in Valparaiso in response to a statement issued the day before by Mr. Reagan and Secretary of State George Shultz "in support of democracy in Chile."

The statement said the U.S. people shared the aspirations of Chileans for restoration of full democracy after 14 years of military rule. It said the best way to achieve this was through an election in an atmosphere of full respect for human and civilian rights.

The Sunday Times said some royal reporters heard about the contents of the broadcast at a lunch from a trusted BBC employee — one of a handful of journalists allowed to preview the royal broadcast last week.

"Over drinks and cigars he provided the details of the speech," the paper said.

A BBC spokesman declined to comment on the Sunday Times article or on other reports that it was launching an inquiry into the leak, insisting the newspapers not the BBC broke the embargo.

memorial service in Enniskillen last month which killed 11 civilians and wounded 60 in the worst guerrilla attack in five years.

The newspaper reports said she did so after speaking with her son Prince Charles and his wife Princess Diana who visited Enniskillen soon after the blast to meet some of the victims.

Buckingham Palace press spokesman Robin Janvrin condemned the leak, saying it was "regrettable" that the embargoed contents of the 10-minute broadcast, filmed by the British Broadcasting Corporation, were published ahead of time.

The Rev. Ian Paisley, the leader of Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party, was quick to comment on the reported contents of the message.

He said people in Northern Ireland "will welcome the fact that Her Majesty is departing from her usual line to comment at this time because of the aggres-

sion and diabolical actions of the IRA."

Lord Mountbatten, the uncle of the queen's husband Prince Philip, was killed by an IRA bomb off the Irish coast in 1979. The IRA is fighting to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

But royal observers dismissed suggestions that the leak was politically motivated.

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COLUMNS 7 & 8

\$15,000 found hidden in stove

CHICAGO (AP) — The best find that real estate agent Remy Burda ever made for a client was \$15,000 she discovered hidden in an old stove. "I would sum this situation up as being a real Christmas story," Ms. Burda said after she sent the money last week to the woman who had sold the house where the stove was found. "It made me feel good." The money belonged to the seller's mother, who kept the cache in a storage section of her 1950s-era gas stove. The stove had been in the mother's unoccupied house since she died about two years ago and her husband moved to Colorado to live with his daughter, who has 13 children, Ms. Burda said. "A lot of people would have taken the money and walked away," the daughter, who asked that her name not be used, said Friday. "I just wish I had somebody like Remy living next door to me. I'm just overjoyed over the whole thing." The find came after her parents' unoccupied house went up for sale. As a service to her client, Ms. Burda held a sale two weeks ago to empty the house of its contents. No one wanted to buy the stove. But Ms. Burda found a needy family to take it. But the stove was heavy, so she partially dismantled it to make it easier to haul. That's when she found a small box filled with money.

Forger takes advantage of advertisement

AMSTERDAM (R) — A forger transferred hundreds of thousands of guilders to his Belgian bank account by copying signatures of Dutch Ford car dealers found in a national newspaper advertisement, police said on Friday. A spokesman for Purerend police in north Holland said a 44-year-old man had been arrested on suspicion of swindling the dealers by forging cheques. A spokesman for Ford Nederland said the Belgian authorities would close the bank account and return the money. "We haven't lost anything, but we'll never advertise using names and signatures again," he said.

EC to outlaw dangerous toys

BRUSSELS (R) — Dangerous toys will be outlawed in the European Community (EC) under a new code but the measures will not affect this year's Christmas presents, an EC commission spokesman said. The code sets common EC standards for the first time for toys imported from other countries such as Hong Kong and Taiwan. "Europe has taken an important step forward towards the safety of its children," the spokesman said. The measures come into effect in 1990 and could reduce the 20,000 child deaths caused in the Community each year by accidents at home or at play, the spokesman said. The code sets out safety guidelines for toys that use chemicals, water or electricity. Individual member states will be responsible for working out details and making spot checks to ensure manufacturers apply the rules.

2 killed in stampede at Nashville concert

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (R) — At least two people were killed and 35 injured in Nashville during a crowd stampede after a concert of rap music, the chanting verse developed by inner city black performers, police said. Police spokesman Bob Hamblin told reporters at least two people died in the crush outside the basement entrance of the 10,000-seat auditorium where crowds of young people were waiting to attend a Christmas party and meet performers. "We don't know exactly what caused the fatalities, but there was a lot of pushing and shoving and possibly some threats and the crowd panicked," said Hamblin, who could not estimate the size of the crowd. He said 35 people were being treated in hospitals for injuries, some of them serious.

Hospital expert named Man of the Year

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey (AP) — A 30-year-old hospital management specialist was named U.S. Man of the Year in a contest billed as a "role model" pageant. William Billings Jr. of St. Charles, Missouri, grinned widely as he walked down the runway, clutching a trophy and sporting a new gold diamond ring after he beat 50 competitors to win the pageant. "The first thing I'm going to do is celebrate with the other 50 guys," Billings said. "Then I'm going back home to find out how much work is on my desk." Billings said he and his business partner provide drug and alcohol abuse programmes to hospitals. The first runner-up was Mr. California Mark L. Harris, 24, a contractor. The second runner-up was Mr. Arizona William A. Fritsch, 30, a model. Mr. Nevada Larry Stevens, 25, a sales representative, was third runner-up.

Stamp to commemorate missile treaty

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union has issued a postage stamp commemorating last week's signing of the superpower treaty to scrap intermediate-range nuclear missiles. According to the Soviet news agency (TASS), the stamp depicts the U.S. Capitol, the Kremlin's Spassky Tower and the flags of both superpowers. An inscription says: "The treaty on eliminating Soviet and American medium- and shorter-range missiles is the first step toward a nuclear-free world." Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan signed the pact during their meeting in Washington to ban nuclear missiles with ranges of from 300 to 3,000 miles (500 to 5,000 kms). To go into force, the treaty must be ratified by the U.S. Senate and receive formal approval from the Supreme Soviet, the Soviet Union's parliament.

Thai amnesty affects foreign prisoners

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thai authorities released 283 prisoners Saturday, including more than 10 foreigners, from Bangkok's Khlong Prem Prison under an amnesty marking the 60th birthday of King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Prison Chief Weera Boatham said more than 10 foreigners came under the amnesty, including people from Australia, West Germany, India, Vietnam and Burma. Their names were not available. Weera said about 900 more prisoners at Khlong Prem are to be released under the amnesty next Saturday. Last week, more than 1,200 prisoners were released from three Bangkok prisons under the royal amnesty. The king's birthday was on Dec. 5.

'Castro would make ideal movie star'

HAVANA (R) — Cuban leader Fidel Castro would make a great movie star or at least he behaves like one, Oscar-winning film director Oliver Stone said on Friday. "Castro acts like a movie star, he does seem to relish the attention he gets," Stone told Reuters at Havana airport before boarding a plane on his way home to his Los Angeles. The American filmmaker, who was in Havana to receive a special award at the Havana Latin American Film Festival for his 1985 movie Salvador, said he had chatted with Castro at an official reception on Thursday night. Stone said he may shoot his next movie in Central America and that he had already a good script but could not say more. Salvador, filmed in Mexico, depicts the civil strife in El Salvador through the eyes of a freelance U.S. reporter. Stone later directed the Oscar-winning Platoon and his latest film, Wall Street, premiered in the United States this week.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
1987 Tribune Media Services Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠1053 ♣86 ♦873 ♣AQJ106
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What action do you take?
A.—In terms of point count pairs and simple, you probably should pass. This, however, is the time to let logic prevail over points. Your hand rates to produce four or five tricks for partner, which makes it a better hand than many 10-pointers. We would gamble on three no trump.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ73 ♣J65 ♦K95 ♣KJ3
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Do not fall into the trap of bidding some number of no trump because you have a balanced hand. Partner's rebid virtually guarantees a six-card suit, so his hand is unbalanced. Jump to four hearts.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AQJ63 ♣AQ852 ♦76 ♣5
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 ♣ Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Would we try to trap you? There is no reason not to make the bid that describes your hand best. You have not yet told partner that you have five hearts, so go ahead—bid three hearts.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠K85 ♣9 ♦KQ762 ♣KJ63
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♣ Pass 2 ♣ Pass
2 NT Pass 3 ♣ Pass
What do you bid now?
A.—Even if you play four-card majors, North's two no trump rebid does not necessarily deny a five-card spade suit—he might just be saying that he has a balanced hand suitable for no trump play without three-card diamond support. However, it is your job to probe for the best game contract, and you can do that by bidding three spades now.
- Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AKQ52 ♦A93 ♣KJ7
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?
A.—Your hand is too strong for an overall of two hearts. The correct action is to double first, intending to bid hearts next over any bid your partner makes.
- Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠Q782 ♣7873 ♣964 ♦1042
Partner opens the bidding with two no trump. What action do you take?
A.—Even if your range is 22-24 points, your combined total at most is 26. While that is usually enough for game, that is not the case when the weak hand is possibly entryless and you have to keep leading from the strong hand. Pass.